

98700657

BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS DEPARTMENT
RECEIVED

JUL 27 1987

Neighborhood NEWS

SPRING/SUMMER 1987



**MAYOR'S
OFFICE OF
NEIGHBORHOOD
SERVICES**

City of Boston
Raymond L. Flynn, Mayor
Don Gillis, Director

Commitment and responsiveness to the people of Boston's neighborhoods—that is the pledge of the Flynn Administration and that is the pledge of the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services. Mayor Flynn established the Office of Neighborhood Services as the entry point in city government for all residents who need services as well as the agency where the administration's commitment to involve people in solving problems is carried out.

Each and every day, residents and businesspeople from every neighborhood of the city, young and old, rich and poor, come together to work with the city to make their neighborhood a better place to live. And whether it is setting up a crime watch group, helping to shape a housing development proposal, or responding to a resident's needs in time of crisis, the staff in our office is there.

Neighborhood Services staff come with a long history of caring and experience in working for their communities. They came here to get results for their constituencies and they saw that, in this office, results could be achieved. Serving as a link between the government and each one of you, this special group of people knows the feeling of being on the outside of government; they understand the need for jobs and affordable housing, for well-kept parks and recreation programs for our youth, and for safe neighborhoods for all our citizens. Their advocacy for their neighborhoods is being put to work for your neighborhood.

The ability of Neighborhood Services to continue to respond to residents is based upon you—the people who get involved. As we work together to strengthen each of our neighborhoods, we hope you will join with your neighbors to make each and every obstacle a stepping stone to success. I hope this newsletter provides you with useful information and is a reminder of what can be done when we do it together.

Don Gillis, Director
Mayor's Office of
Neighborhood Services

Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services— Programs That Work for the Neighborhoods

Since the beginning of the Flynn Administration, a top priority of the mayor has been to deliver basic services effectively, whether that means filling potholes, sweeping streets, dealing with constituent complaints, or ensuring that residents participate in housing and development decisions that affect their neighborhoods. Another goal of the Flynn Administration has been to increase affordable housing and home ownership opportunities while stabilizing existing housing stock and increasing protections for renters and low- and moderate-income homeowners. The role of the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services is to manage and coordinate various clean-city initiatives and to work on behalf of the neighborhoods to effect change by responding to neighborhood issues and concerns.

Community Gives High Marks to Neighborhood Services

Matt Thall, director of the Fenway Community Development Corporation, said, "From the outset, we've had a good experience working with the staff of Neighborhood Services. We've known many of the people who work there in different roles from their working in the community before joining the office—they are familiar with the neighborhoods and helpful in that respect. We've been able to call and break any logjam that we were facing and similarly, when they've had problems—particularly in the area of development—they know where to find us."

continued on p.8



Mayor Raymond L. Flynn announces the launching of the city-wide "Pickin' Up the Neighborhood" clean-up campaign. Looking on is Don Gillis, director of Neighborhood Services. Already an institution in many of Boston's neighborhoods, volunteer weekend clean-ups will continue through the first snow fall. Four years ago, Neighborhood Services coordinated 26 clean-ups with 600 neighborhood residents. This year, the goal is 125 clean-ups with over 3,000 participants. The city provides tools and pick-up of debris, and the Prudential Company and local businesses reward volunteers with hats, gloves, t-shirts, and refreshments. Call 725-3485 to plan your clean-up.



Residents prepare to render their neighborhood spotless at the Cleveland Circle clean-up.



Allston-Brighton residents Charlie Doyle (top), Bill Hogan, and State Representative Kevin Honan (right) remove a heavy load of debris at the recent Ringer Park clean-up in Brighton.



From left, Collette Manoil, vice chair of the North End/Waterfront Neighborhood Council; Mary Ann D'Amato, secretary; Stephanie Savini, chair of the Public Safety Subcommittee; and chair William Ferullo thrash through an issue affecting their neighborhood at a recent council meeting.



Diane Payne, Neighborhood Services coordinator, speaking at a Codman Square neighborhood meeting where the community was successful in opposing an application by the developers of 451 Washington St. for change of occupancy from a store/church to a 750-seat restaurant.



There's nothing like a swing on a tire for this youngster at the newly renovated Carter Playground in the city's South End.



All the necessary utensils are here for the Back Bay clean-up.



Jimmy Hall, head of the Charlestown Gardens group, tills the soil of the Charlestown Community Garden. With the help of Neighborhood Services, Hall is working to preserve the garden for community use.



Roxbury residents listen to and discuss planning and development issues affecting their neighborhood.



Marilyn Lee-Tom, former Asian liaison and Chinatown/South End coordinator, makes a point at a recent neighborhood meeting. Lee-Tom has recently joined the Chinatown Neighborhood Council as its executive director.



Two residents leave a local workshop for Weatherize Boston ready to weatherize their home for the winter. Weatherize Boston has reached over 2000 Bostonians and has held over fifty workshops in neighborhoods throughout the city aimed at helping homeowners and renters reduce their heating bills by as much as \$200 to \$600 a year.

Neighborhood News

Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services
Spring/Summer 1987

Writer/Editor
Dinah Vaprin

Assistant Writer/Editor
Sandy Holden

Photography
Don West
Alphonso Fajardo
Bill Noonan
Brian Connolly
Joey Libby

Layout/Design
Dinah Vaprin
Mia Saunders

Printing
Harwich Lithograph

Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services

You can contact your neighborhood coordinator in the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services by calling **725-3485**. You can also visit the office, Monday-Friday, 9:00-5:00, or write to:

Mayor's Office of
Neighborhood Services
City Hall, Room 709A
City Hall Plaza
Boston, MA 02201

For individuals in need of immediate or emergency services, contact the Constituent Services/24-Hour Hotline of Neighborhood Services at **725-4500**. Staff is available 24 hours a day, every day of the week.

"Neighborhood Services has been super, extremely helpful. When I call, I get a response. This office has literally broken down the walls of government to fine dust. It's cut down red tape. I would also say that it has worked well with the neighborhood council by helping us along in dealing with critical development issues."

Tom Cunha, president, Charlestown Economic Development Corporation and member, Charlestown Neighborhood Council

Neighborhood Services Initiatives

Constituent Services Division/24-Hour Emergency Hotline—725-4500

Neighborhood Services works closely with individuals in need of immediate or emergency services through its Constituent Services Division. Constituent Services receives over 3500 calls a week concerning everything from a city service problem to apartments with no heat. Staff is available 24 hours a day, every day of the week, at **725-4500**.

Neighborhood Clean-ups

Now through November, neighborhood residents, local merchants, and other organizations will be working with Neighborhood Services to coordinate over 120 neighborhood clean-ups. To book your neighborhood clean-up, call Neighborhood Services at **725-3485**.

Pilot Street Sweeping Program

Initially begun in six neighborhoods, the street sweeping program has now been expanded to seventeen neighborhoods. Neighborhood Services is now planning to extend the program into additional residential areas and to six major neighborhood arteries. The program combines a regular sweeping schedule with a strict enforcement program.

Abandoned Car Removal Program

Neighborhood Services coordinates the city's efforts to remove the ever-increasing number of abandoned cars on Boston's streets. **725-4500** will connect you to the abandoned car hotline which will record where the car is located and will start procedures for its removal. So far this year, over 4000 cars have been removed, and the city is making plans to increase its towing efforts to remove up to 8000 abandoned vehicles next year. Prosecution of owners who abandon their cars continues.

Vacant Lot Clean-up Program

Neighborhood Services works with neighborhood residents and city departments to coordinate clean-up efforts and enforce city-owned vacant lot regulations. During 1986, over 400 lots were cleaned, and many private lots, streets, and parks were cleaned by summer youth crews. This coming fiscal year, the city proposes an increase of \$1 million for the clean-up of over 2,000 city-owned lots. The Vacant Lot Committee established by Neighborhood Services is working with the Law Department to strengthen enforcement regulations and to recover clean-up costs from private owners.

Early Notification System (ENS)

Neighborhood Services has implemented an Early Notification System (ENS) to inform the community about all upcoming hearings and meetings at the Zoning Board of Appeal, the Licensing Board, the Zoning Commission, and the Licensing Division to give residents an opportunity to be a part of the open, public decision-making process.

Weatherize Boston

The Weatherize Boston program is a comprehensive, neighborhood-based energy conservation program that helps reduce energy costs for neighborhood residents through workshops, free energy audits, and the distribution of free conservation methods.

Fire Victims Assistance Task Force and Emergency Hotlines (7 languages)

The task force was established to assist fire victims in the often complicated task of picking up the pieces after a fire. It has just completed a study which identifies problems faced by fire victims and their families and makes recommendations to address those problems. One of the first services to be established by the FVATF will be a multilingual fire assistance emergency phone number to help victims get information on services available to them.

Litter Barrel Program

Neighborhood Services works with local merchants and neighborhood business associations to place hundreds of state-of-the-art litter baskets, or "wobblies," in their business districts.

Mayor's Committee on AIDS

This committee meets once a month and brings together medical and social service experts, leaders within the gay community, and others who play an important role in the fight against AIDS.

Neighborhood Councils

Residents need to be full partners in the process by which development and service delivery occur in their neighborhoods. Neighborhood Services works closely with the seven neighborhood councils established by Mayor Flynn. The councils provide residents with a structured forum to receive information and participate in the decision-making process on issues ranging from public safety to development. Councils currently exist in Chinatown, Jamaica Plain, Roxbury, Charlestown, the Codman Square area of Dorchester, West Roxbury, and the North End/Waterfront.

Planning and Zoning Advisory Committees (PZACs)

PZACs were established in East Boston, Port Norfolk in Dorchester, Allston-Brighton, and Boylston Street, and consist of neighborhood residents and business leaders whose task it is to work with the city and the Boston Redevelopment Authority (BRA) on comprehensive rezoning of their neighborhoods.

"If you or someone you know might be using drugs, talk to someone you can trust—a parent, a teacher, a counselor, a coach, a youth worker."

Charlie Rose, Boston Community Schools



Yves Dambreville, Mattapan/Franklin Field coordinator, leads a meeting in the community on the dangers of crack, a purified form of cocaine, and other drugs.



Neighborhood residents in Roslindale listen attentively at an anti-drug seminar in their community.

City Hosts Neighborhood "Crack" Meetings

Mayor Raymond L. Flynn, the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services, and Boston Community Schools recently hosted a series of neighborhood meetings to inform residents of the dangers of "crack," a purified form of cocaine, and other drugs. The neighborhood crack discussions included a dramatic video presentation with national and local experts and presentations by representatives from the Boston Police Department and the city's neighborhood health centers.

"We will only defeat crack," said Mayor Flynn, "if everyone understands the seriousness of the problems associated with drug use and with crack in particular, and gets involved in working together to eliminate it from our neighborhoods."

"At these neighborhood discussions," said the mayor, "we are looking to our young people for direction. Nobody knows better about the pressures and problems that lead youngsters to take drugs. We are going to teach, but more importantly we are going to listen and learn. Crack is not a minority problem or a white problem, it is not a rich kid's problem or an old person's problem, nor is it just a young person's problem. It affects us all. That is why every parent, every child, and every citizen will have to join our effort to defeat crack."

What Is Crack?

Crack (sometimes called "rock" or "free-base") is the name for a purified (sometimes as much as 90% pure) form of cocaine and is five or six times stronger than the cocaine normally sold on the street.

The streetname "crack" is derived from the cracking noise it makes when smoked. It is sold in the form of small white, gray, or beige chunks that can be smoked. A small amount can be bought for between \$10 and \$20, making it a very accessible drug for kids.

"Crack Kills!"

Crack is an especially dangerous and lethal drug which can cause addiction after a short period of use. The heightened effect of the drug comes from its being smoked. Once inhaled, the vapors are immediately absorbed into the bloodstream. This rapid absorption causes tremendous chemical reactions on the brain, the nervous system, and on the heart. One former user said at one of the neighborhood meetings, "Once you start using crack, you can't stop. Believe me, crack kills!"

Crack is sold by drug dealers as the cheap and easy way to use cocaine. Because it is smoked, young users are attracted by its "harmless" appearance and small size, posing no difficulty to conceal.

At another neighborhood meeting, an 11-year-old told a rather revealing story about how drugs often get into the hands of young people. He said, "I have a friend, see. And he uses marijuana. I asked him how he got it and does his mother know. He told me that his mother leaves him a note on the fridge in the morning which says, 'The pot is on top of the icebox. Don't take it all!'"

Signs of Trouble?

There are many reasons why young people try drugs, of course, but in their own words it's really very simple. "To be cool." "To fit in." "To escape from my problems." "It's a new experience." "What else is there to do?" Peer pressure is also a major factor in substance abuse by teenagers. "Just saying no is not enough," said one teen. "Kids need to know how to split when your friends call you chicken, and feel good about it. We need to learn that we don't always have to prove something."

It's hard to look at TV or magazines without hearing about cocaine, crack, or alcohol, but how many parents can really identify when their own children might be using drugs? An early sign of possible use of drugs by someone can be a change in a person's behavior, or an abrupt breakdown in family communications. A marked change in personality, a loss of interest in personal appearance, paranoid behavior, or animosity toward family and friends can all be significant signs to watch for in friends or loved ones. "I had a friend who was easygoing and fun," said one young person. "She suddenly became rebellious and impossible. I guess that's when I knew there was something wrong."

continued on p. 4

City Expands Vacant Lot Cleaning Program

The Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services has launched an intensive campaign to coordinate the clean-up of city- and privately owned vacant lots in the neighborhoods. The program includes the establishment of a regularly scheduled maintenance program for the approximately 2500 city-owned vacant parcels and enforcement of state sanitary laws against the owners of private property.

The city is proposing an additional \$1 million in the 1988 fiscal year budget for the Real Property Department for vacant lot clean-ups. These will focus initially along the main thoroughfares of Dorchester, Roxbury, and Mattapan, where most of the vacant property is located. Over the course of the year, the program will expand its maintenance efforts throughout other neighborhoods.

Don Gillis, director of Neighborhood Services, said, "We have had ongoing discussions with neighborhood groups and residents which have given us the opportunity to come up with a program that reflects their concerns. We secured 75 lots last fall and by July 1, we will have done another 250. Over the course of the year we plan to clean up to 2000 more."

Peter Medoff, director of the Dudley St. Initiative, added, "We will be working with the city to help prioritize the lots and to see that development of the vacant lots for neighborhood housing will soon follow the clearance of rubbish from these parcels. We are pleased to see this commitment of resources by the city for this job."

Call 725-DUMP Hotline

Signs are posted notifying those who illegally dump that a fine of \$1,000 will be imposed. To report illegal dumping, call the **725-DUMP (725-3867)** hotline number which is also posted. Harold Hughey, Neighborhood Services coordinator, added, "We need to know when residents spot someone they think is dumping illegally. When you call, give us the license plate numbers or markings on the vehicle and the type of material being dumped. Residents should not confront these individuals. They are criminals and should be treated as such." Residents should also make note of the time and place of the dumping.

Mayor Flynn said, "We intend to prosecute fully those who continue to break the law by dumping illegally. Residents of the neighborhoods of the city deserve a clean and safe environment, and we will go after those who seek to detract from the community."

Neighborhood and City Work to Clean Lots

In the Washington Park area of Roxbury, over \$30,000 was spent this fiscal year to clean up a number of vacant lots in the Maywood, Edgewood, Savin St. area. Led by Mrs. Martha Williams, the neighborhood association worked with Neighborhood Services and the city's Real Property, Inspectional Services, Public Works, and Public Facilities (PFD) Departments to improve the area and maintain these improvements.

continued on p. 9



This lot on Dudley St. will be cleaned, poled, and secured as part of the ongoing program coordinated in Neighborhood Services to clean up city-owned vacant parcels. In fiscal year 1988, an increase of \$1 million will go to the city's Real Property Department for this effort.



Taken from different angles, it's still the same. Once filled with debris, a vacant lot on Baker Avenue, in Dorchester is now clean. Neighborhood Services has launched a campaign to clean up 2500 city-owned vacant parcels this fiscal year, while ISD works to enforce state sanitary laws against 13,000 private owners.



To prevent illegal dumping, the city posts signs in the neighborhoods informing residents where to call.

CRACK

continued from p.3

"If you or someone you know might be using drugs, talk to someone you can trust," said Charlie Rose of the Boston Community Schools, "a parent, a teacher, a counselor, a coach, a youth worker." Persons concerned about substance abuse or the use of drugs by family or friends are urged to call **269-5460** at Boston City Hospital for information, confidential referrals, and assistance. Anyone suffering from the effects of drugs needing immediate help should go to the Emergency Room at Boston City Hospital.

What Is Boston Doing?

In addition to holding over twenty neighborhood crack discussions, the city is making available to community, church groups, and schools the eighteen-minute video being shown at the meetings. The video is also in libraries and video stores. The city has also received commitments from the business community to help organize and to fund local anti-drug efforts. If your neighborhood group is interested in holding a meeting on this issue, contact your Neighborhood Services coordinator at **725-3485**.

Other city anti-drug initiatives include:

- Doubling the size of the drug control unit of the Boston Police Department;
- Making available the Richards Building on Long Island for a residential teenage drug rehabilitation center;
- Sponsoring two bills in the legislature that would increase the penalty for those who use minors in drug trafficking and would strengthen the existing padlock law for places involved in drug trafficking;
- Introducing a "crack-specific" law that would reduce from 28 grams to 7 grams the minimum amount of crack necessary to prosecute for intent to distribute; and
- Fully supporting the Boston Public Schools drug and substance abuse program for grades 4-6 by sending ten police officers into the classrooms full-time to act as teachers. Parochial schools will also be providing this program for 5th graders.

One little girl spoke knowingly at one recent neighborhood crack meeting discussion about why she would not do drugs. "I have two good reasons," she said. What were they, she was asked. "Well," she said, "one reason is that I could die if I do them. The other is my mother would find out." What would happen if her mother found out, she was asked? "She would kill me!" she said emphatically.

Mayor Flynn said that the city will continue to meet with people to outline further ways to respond to the concerns raised in the neighborhoods about crack and other drugs. "We don't have all the answers," said the mayor. "But by working together we can come up with programs that work." These programs will include education for children and parents, statutory and sentencing reform, and law enforcement coordination. "Each of us," concluded Mayor Flynn, "can make a major contribution to keeping crack and other dangerous substances out of our neighborhoods."

Where to Call for Help

Here is a list of numbers to get help and more information:

- Boston City Hospital's Narcotics Addiction Department—offers detox, evaluation, and methadone maintenance programs, 200 Frontage Road, **269-5460** or **269-1770**.
- Boston Area Drug Abusers Anonymous (24 hours), **569-0021**.
- Cocaine Hotline (24 hours toll-free), **1-800-262-2463**.
- Drop-A-Dime, Report a Crime, **427-1169**.
- First, 34 Intervale St., Roxbury, **445-5230**.
- North Conway Institute, 14 Beacon St., Boston, **742-0424**.
- Faulkner Hospital, 1153 Centre St., Jamaica Plain, **522-5800**.
- Noodle Island Multi-Service Center, 264 Meriden St., East Boston, **569-7310**.
- Step, Inc., 427 Commercial St., North End, **720-0153**.
- Alcoholics Anonymous, 368 Congress St., **426-9444**.
- Al-Anon Family Groups, 460 Washington St., Braintree, **847-3841**.

PHONE NUMBERS TO KEEP HANDY

This list of phone numbers will assist you in reaching the correct department to help you with any questions or problems. It is important to remember that the Police Department's **911** number is for emergencies only and not for general information calls.

Public Safety

Police **911**
Area A **247-4240**
Downtown/Chinatown/Beacon Hill
North End/Charlestown/East Boston
Area B **247-4270** Roxbury/Mattapan
Area C **247-4430** Dorchester/South Boston
Area D **247-4250** South End/Back Bay/
Fenway/Allston-Brighton
Area E **247-4560** West Roxbury/
Jamaica Plain/Hyde Park/Roslindale

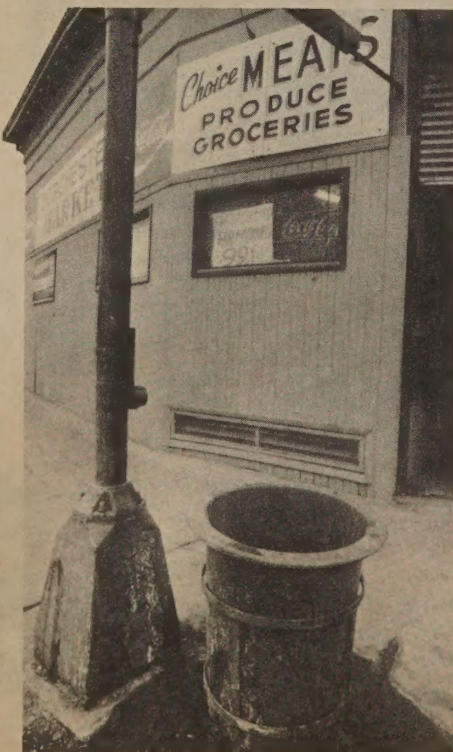
Sexual Assault Unit **247-4400**

Fire **911 427-4000**

Boston City Hospital **424-5000**

City of Boston

Mayor's 24-hour Constituent and
Emergency Service **725-4500**
Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services
725-3485
Illegal Dumping Hotline **725-DUMP**
Inspectional Services **442-0046**
Public Works **725-4900**



Over 500 "wobblers" are located throughout the neighborhood business districts as part of the city's efforts to keep the neighborhoods clean. The state-of-the-art litter baskets were funded by the city's Public Facilities and Public Works departments.



Steve D'Amico (right), of Weatherize Boston, gives a tenant at a local workshop weatherization materials, while others get down to work in helping to weatherstrip a neighbor's windows. High-quality window weatherstripping, available through Weatherize Boston, can make old windows as draft-free as new ones.

Weatherize for Warmth with Weatherize Boston

It's spring now, and thoughts of weatherizing for warmth are far from our minds. But now is as good a time as any, perhaps even better, to think about how to protect our homes for when the weather turns colder and heating costs rise again.

Boston residents can turn to a city program for help—Weatherize Boston. Begun two years ago in the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services, Weatherize Boston has reached over 2000 Bostonians and has held over fifty workshops in neighborhoods throughout the city aimed at helping homeowners and renters reduce their heating bills by as much as \$200 to \$600 a year.

John Demerjian, president of the Parkway Homeowner's Association in West Roxbury, wrote in a letter to the *West Roxbury Transcript*, "I was pleased to have sponsored a weatherization workshop for our neighborhood. It provided our neighbors with information on a number of ways to save money on their fuel bills." And Richard Burchill, also of West Roxbury, wrote after his neighborhood workshop, "City Hall has found a way to use federal and private utility company money to fund an effective program that actually saves West Roxbury residents money. For this, city government should be commended."

At the workshops, which are open to neighborhood residents, participants are offered:

- Expert training in home energy conservation, including many low-cost, do-it-yourself tips.
- Weatherization materials worth \$25. Included is high-quality window weatherstripping that can make old windows as draft-free as new windows.
- Low-cost personalized home energy surveys, a \$100 value for only \$9. Surveys are designed to show exactly where a household is losing energy and explain what can be done about it. Included in the survey is the installation of an additional \$25 worth of weatherization materials at no extra charge.
- Information on special zero-interest financing packages that can help make major energy-saving improvements more affordable.

Weatherize Boston involves the combined resources of the City of Boston, Fair Share Development Corporation, Community Energy Partnership, Boston Edison, and Boston Gas. Check your neighborhood paper for the workshop nearest you or call **725-3307** in Neighborhood Services.

What You Need to Know About AIDS

Some of our readers have seen the many stories about AIDS in the newspapers and magazines or on television. Some of you may even know someone with AIDS. Every day, researchers are learning more and more about this disease. The Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services feels that it is important for you to have accurate and up-to-date information in the hope that it will answer some of your questions.

In an effort to supplant fear with facts, Mayor Flynn is sending to each household in Boston a copy of Surgeon General C. Everett Koop's report on AIDS. The brochure will also be translated into Spanish. "This report provides clear, factual information about this disease, which is the Number 1 public health problem facing this country," said the mayor. "I urge you and all members of your family to carefully read and review the information contained in this timely pamphlet."

What Is AIDS?

AIDS, or Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome, is an extremely serious condition in which an individual's natural immunities against disease break down, making that person very susceptible to a variety of illnesses.

What Are AIDS Symptoms?

Early signs of AIDS are similar to those of many other illnesses, such as colds or flus, like fever, swollen glands, diarrhea, or weight loss. Anyone with prolonged symptoms should consult a physician.

How Is AIDS Transmitted?

AIDS is not highly contagious and there is no reason to suspect it is transmitted through the air, in food, or during social contact. Evidence suggests that AIDS is spread through direct contact with body fluids, such as blood or semen from an infected person. No cases have been found to occur where AIDS has been transmitted by casual or even close daily contact with AIDS patients or persons in a high-risk group.

Is There a Danger of Contacting AIDS from Donating Blood?

Absolutely not. Reputable blood banks use sterile equipment and disposable needles.

Where Can I Call for More Information?

- Ann Maguire—Mayor's Adviser on Lesbian/Gay Issues in the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services **725-3485**
- AIDS Hotline—City of Boston **424-5916**
- AIDS Action Committee—**536-7733**
- State Hotline—**1-800-253-2331**

“Mayor Flynn has made it clear that the city administration not only believes strongly in neighborhood participation and access, but also in using city leverage, such as the use of vacant city land and buildings, to expand the supply of affordable housing.”

Freida Garcia, executive director, United South End Settlements

Community Participation + City Land = Affordable Housing

In early 1986, the BRA announced a plan to develop seventy parcels of vacant city-owned property in the South End. The plan was called the South End Neighborhood Housing Initiative (SENH). The Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services worked closely with the Boston Redevelopment Authority (BRA) to establish a public process that would give neighborhood residents an opportunity to have input into how this valuable city resource was used.

Betsy Johnson, president of the South End's Claremont Neighborhood Association, stated, "Initially, there was a lot of skepticism in the community about not having a series of open meetings to deal with BRA properties. Many thought that after the initial enthusiasm wore off, there would be only a few people attending the meetings and making the decisions. The exact opposite happened. As the process went on, participation blossomed . . ."



Eleanor Strong, speaking at one of the fifteen community meetings held in the South End, feels that provisions for open space and gardens are an important piece in the city's South End Neighborhood Housing Initiative (SENH).



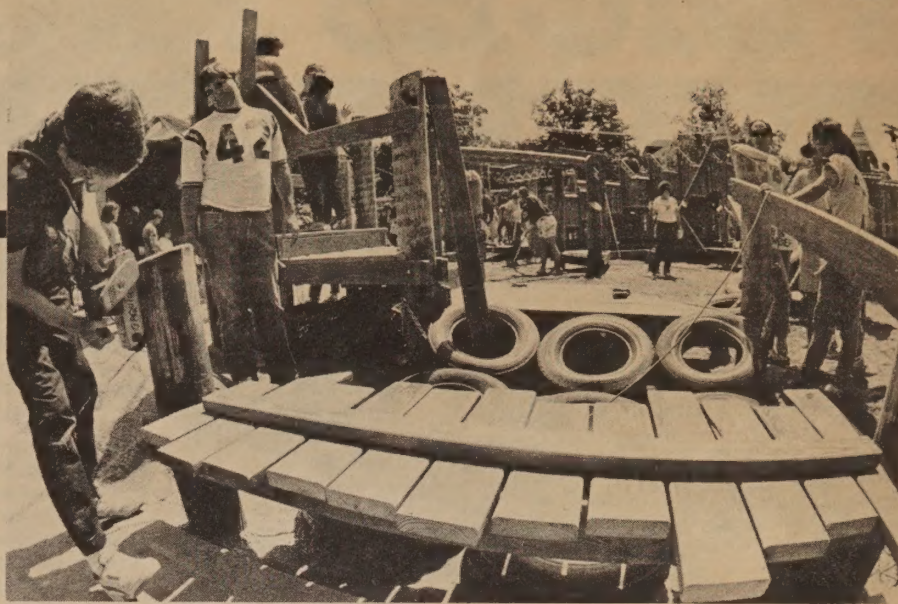
Ken Wade advocates for more affordable housing for the community. Both open space and low and moderately priced housing are priorities in the SENHI plan recently announced by the mayor.



Residents and merchants of the South End meet to discuss the impacts of the new Orange Line relocation and permanent replacement service options on Washington St. from Dudley Square to downtown. The meeting was organized by the Office of Neighborhood Services with Transportation, the BRA, and PFD.



The "Raising of the Flag" Ceremonies at City Hall kicking off the 1986 Puerto Rican Festival. From left to right, Jose Rodriguez, Hispanic liaison in Neighborhood Services, Chico Muñoz, and Mayor Flynn. Second from right is the Mayor of El Dorado, Puerto Rico, special guest at the festival. As Hispanic liaison, Rodriguez works to ensure that Hispanic residents city-wide who face any language barriers will have access to all services that they may need.



The West Roxbury Playground Committee gets everyone to help in the construction of a new playground in Billings Field. In addition to money raised by the playground committee, the city's Capital Plan provides \$220,000 for new backstops, benches, bleachers, court improvements, drinking fountains, and a field house.

Affordability Mayor Flynn's "Top Priority"

After a careful review, Mayor Flynn announced the guidelines for the development of the South End sites that address the deep concerns held by neighborhood residents. The SENHI program, which received overwhelming support from the neighborhood, calls for one-third of the units to be made affordable to families with incomes at or below 50 percent of the SMSA median income; one-third at or below 80 percent of the SMSA median; and one-third at market levels. Guidelines also call for preserving open space, maintaining the residential character of the neighborhood, and promoting neighborhood stability.

City Delivers on Promise

Freida Garcia, executive director of the United South End Settlements and a South End resident, said, "Mayor Flynn has made it clear that the city administration not only believes strongly in neighborhood participation and access, but also in using city leverage, such as the use of vacant city land and buildings, to expand the supply of affordable housing."

Patrick Cusick, executive director of the South End Neighborhood Action Program (SNAP) and longtime South End resident, said, "This is an important and significant decision by the mayor and it's clear to folks like me who may not have been political supporters in the past that we can and will work together for important change and progress in Boston."

Stephen Coyle, BRA director, said, "With the SENHI program, the Flynn Administration is once again showing its commitment—as with Tent City and Harbor Point (formerly Columbia Point)—to deliver on promises made many years ago. New housing will be produced in the South End, but that housing will be affordable so that it does not lead to the displacement which so often follows in the wake of renewal."

The BRA is making use of the extensive community input, as well as suggestions made in over 200 letters sent to their offices, to develop guidelines for how these properties will be developed. John Riordan, Assistant Director for Neighborhood Planning and Development in Neighborhood Services, said, "The city is trying to do something that, in the face of federal housing cutbacks, is no longer easy. It is making use of one of the last housing subsidies left—city-owned property—to achieve the mayor's goal of producing housing that is affordable to the residents of the city."

Rent Equity—Know Your Rights!

Almost all residents who rent housing in the City of Boston have rights they often don't know about. Here is a brief explainer on the city's Rent Equity Law, which is administered by the Boston Rent Equity Board (sometimes known as the Rent Control Board).

To determine whether you live in a building that has protections provided by the Rent Equity Law, call 725-4200. **If you live in either a rent-controlled or vacancy-decontrolled apartment, you have protections in three major areas** (exceptions include owner-occupied three-deckers and buildings built after January 1969).

Important Facts You Should Know

Rent increases

- As a tenant you are protected against large rent increases or rent gouging.
- Rent cannot be increased more than once in any twelve-month period.

Evictions

- You cannot be evicted without just cause. Remember only a judge may evict you.
- Rent-controlled tenants have a right to a hearing before the Rent Equity Board before an owner can go to court to evict.

Condominium or Cooperative Conversions

- If a building is to be converted into condominiums or cooperatives, as a tenant, you **must** receive a Boston Rent Equity Board "Condo Package" from the developer which explains your rights.

- You have first right of refusal on your unit for the same or better price offered any other purchaser.
- If you are elderly and low-to-moderate income, handicapped and low-to-moderate income, or low-income, you are protected against condominium eviction.
- If you are elderly, handicapped, or low-to-moderate income, you have three years before you have to leave your unit.
- All other tenants have one year before they must move from their unit.
- You can only be evicted for a conversion if your unit is sold to an owner who intends to occupy it.

Helpful Telephone Numbers

Rent Equity Board 725-4200
Hearings Division 725-4196
Compliance Division 725-3384
Legal Division 725-3683

Other Housing Agencies

Housing Inspections: 442-2367
Mayor's No-Heat Hotline 775-4500
Boston Housing Court 725-8485
Fair Housing 725-4408

Legal Assistance

Greater Boston Legal Services 357-5757
Elderly Legal Service 536-0400
Legal Services Center 522-3003
New England Law Legal Services 357-9200
Volunteer Lawyers Project 423-0648
Lawyer's Referral 523-0595

VOICES FROM THE NEIGHBORHOODS



The members of the Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Council take a vote on an important issue in the neighborhood. The council meets once a month at Curtis Hall on Centre Street in Jamaica Plain. Residents are encouraged to attend and join any of the working subcommittees.

In 1986, Mayor Raymond L. Flynn established seven neighborhood councils and three planning and zoning advisory committees (PZACs). The following are guest columns from representatives of some of the appointed committees.

West Roxbury Neighborhood Council

Catherine Cullen, Chair

Looking back over our first year, I believe that the West Roxbury Neighborhood Council has been a success. In the first place, we were responsible for some positive improvements in our community. A two-hour parking limitation in the commercial district, a clearly marked municipal parking area, and a cleaner city lot were some of our major accomplishments.

Second, on several occasions, the council assessed a developer's plan for new construction against the needs of the abutting neighbors and community at-large and made recommendations on zoning issues. In fact, we are presently joined with the BRA in an effort to resolve development problems of one of the largest parcels of green space remaining in West Roxbury.

Third, we have channeled some time and energy toward planning as well. Our Land-Use Development Committee is working with the BRA on a review of current zoning with an eye toward planning the usage of the last undeveloped space in our community. We have also had some fun. Our Playground Committee has been busy raising money and making plans for a new playground which will be built by a team of 800 community members one weekend this spring.

Finally, we have experienced some growing pains along the way, but have had courage and concern enough to grow and develop in spite of them. By trial and error, we have learned what works and what does not work. At our next meeting, for example, we shall vote on a number of amendments to our by-laws in order to improve our procedure and to clarify our committee structure. More likely than not, as we continue our work this year, we will also continue to grow and learn and redefine our role.

As president of the neighborhood council my hope is that this year is as successful as last year was. Based upon our first year, I would declare that our neighborhood council is one concept for community participation that appears to be working.

Chinatown-South Cove Neighborhood Council

Carol Lee, Moderator

In a year's time, much has happened within the Chinatown-South Cove Neighborhood Council. It established by-laws, incorporated, found an office, raised funds, and tackled several difficult development projects impacting Chinatown. Despite limited resources, political differences, and a totally volunteer board, the council has been able to overcome these hardships and has compiled a commendable list of accomplishments in its first year.

Council members, who are a very politically diverse bunch, underwent an unexpected group metamorphosis that resulted in a board that could work together towards common goals for Chinatown. For the first time in Chinatown, a forum also existed where individuals from very different perspectives could sit, discuss work, and then present the Chinatown point of view on issues. In addition, working closely with the BRA and the city on various development projects has created a more positive relationship and has resulted in substantive products for everyone. Nevertheless, the council still has a long way to go. It needs financial commitments from the city to hire staff to handle all the administrative tasks generated from projects. It needs to continue reorganizing itself until it runs more efficiently and effectively in its various roles.

In the coming year, the council hopes to restructure itself, to do more community outreach, to facilitate better city services, to develop a Chinatown development plan to raise additional funds, and to have more contact with other neighborhood councils.

To varying degrees, the pilot neighborhood councils have shown the range of possibilities of what the concept of these councils could achieve for both communities and the city as hoped in their creation. However, in order to avoid burn-out of volunteer members, to continue organizational building, and to be a truly effective medium between the neighborhoods and the city, the city needs to continue to support the council by exploring vehicles for further financial resources. The Chinatown-South Cove Neighborhood Council will continue to function and to become a successful model for future councils to follow.

Codman Square Neighborhood Council

Reverend William Loesch, Chair

Our council first met in January, 1986. Below, we share some of our activities with you. What has been fun about being a part of a new group is that we help create our purpose and goals. Although we are all volunteers, we have great resources—the main ones being the people we work with.

We want to thank our active council members for a successful year. They are: Brian Gokey, Will Hutchinson, Peter B. John, Bill Jones, Mary Jones, Terrance Kenny, Esther Lawrence, Lee Lemar, Francis Linskey, Ellen McLennon, Seth Racusen, Dorothy Selman, Catherine Smith, Sylvine Smith, and Al Waterman.

Our coordinator from the Office of Neighborhood Services, Diane Payne, is very aware and sensitive to the needs of our neighborhood and is a great asset to our city.

In 1986, we co-sponsored several community meetings to help learn about new developments in city services, or about new projects. We helped in the process and selection of a developer for the Lithgow Building (historic landmark), plans for development of the adjacent business block, and new housing on vacant land being done by the Codman Square Housing Development Corporation.

We sponsored and coordinated Codman Square Day, with our new theme: "Codman Square: Growing and United." This brought together many groups for educational purposes and encouraged local merchants to share our support for the Square. We discovered a few places where questionable activities were taking place and, through community meetings and going before the Board of Appeals, were able to slow down or stop these activities. The neighborhood wants all to know they want creative and constructive activities.

We sponsored the Christmas Tree Lighting and Celebration along with the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services and Office of Business and Cultural Development.

Our goals for 1987 include:

- Support for expansion of DyDee Service and Blue Ribbon Laundry on Welles and Dorchester Avenue.
- Development of Leen School on Baily Street, with the Public Facilities Department.
- A Community Awards Banquet was held on March 28, 1987 in honor of community leaders.
- Continued encouragement of present and new businesses in our area.
- Renewal of interest for, and development of, former "Our Market" building on Washington Street.
- The election of new council members in early summer, and expansion of this council, if so determined by all; and
- Finding permanent location, and adequate resources, to become successful in accomplishing our goals.

Through your support and ideas we will have another good year!

North End/Waterfront Neighborhood Council

William Ferullo, Chair

Similar to other one-year-olds, the NEWNC has been cutting its teeth on difficult community issues. We have wanted to run but have learned that walking comes before running and crawling before walking. We have negotiated crawling and plan to walk soon as we continue to work with the various and complicated procedures of numerous city departments like the Board of Appeal, the BRA, and Licensing Department.

Our members have learned a great deal about the city, the community, and each other. We adopted by-laws, elected officers, and set off to deal with community problems. We formed subcommittees (Land Use, Public Safety, Housing, Central Artery, Human Services, Public Relations, and Finance) to divide the work.

Our first priority was to identify and obtain affordable housing in the community. The North End/Waterfront has been in the forefront of Boston's development surge. In the past fifteen years, we have undergone tremendous transformation. A predominantly Italian working-class neighborhood with large close-knit family units living in affordable apartments has become condominiumized, over-developed, and unaffordable to many of our families. The mostly vacant wharves, formerly occupied by a dwindling fishing fleet, have given way to major development of luxury housing, hotels, and marinas whose yachts replaced the fishing trawlers. Parking problems and traffic congestion, and over-proliferation of restaurant and liquor licenses drive more away. The success of a neighborhood and its livability is on the line.

The council is attempting to slow down, mitigate, or reverse this process. We have become involved in the review of major waterfront development, zoning variances, new liquor licenses, restaurant expansions, parking violators, playground improvements, street lighting, street and sidewalk repairs, regulation of summer festivals, and other everyday service issues.

The process is slow and frustrating. When the wheels of government move slowly and expectations are high, the council finds itself in a difficult position. In our first year, we have improved communications with city departments, have better access to information regarding matters under consideration by city agencies that affect the neighborhood, and are giving our input into plans contemplated by city departments.

The institution of neighborhood councils should result in mutual benefits for the communities and the city because they provide the most direct link between the people and the government which is to service them. After one year, the NEWNC looks forward to more problems, more meetings, more work, more meetings, and more successes.

Well, bring on those "terrible twos!"

Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Council

Bob McDonnell, Member

In its year and a half of existence, the Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Council has labored in its efforts to represent various neighborhood interests in Jamaica Plain and is struggling hard and succeeding at finding a balance.

The council has persevered and achieved a number of notable achievements. Its Parks and Open Space Committee has surveyed and inventoried all the city parks and playgrounds in Jamaica Plain and is working with the Mayor's Office of Capital Planning and the city's Parks and Recreation Department to plan improvements.

The Zoning Committee has put in literally hundreds of hours working with the Boston Redevelopment Authority in devising a new zoning plan for Jamaica Plain, as well as considering a great many zoning variances and licensing requests.

The Housing Committee has conducted numerous meetings on major proposals such as what would be built at the Bowditch School, on the Curley lot, and at Rockvale Circle.

And the Public Safety Committee has been active in dealing with abandoned cars, vacant lots, graffiti, and litter. It organized and hosted a recognition and awards night for the police officers serving Jamaica Plain as well as facilitating the plan for the construction of the new Police Station at Green and Washington Streets. It also is working with the city to implement a Residential Parking Sticker Program in Jamaica Plain.

If any one theme has characterized council action, it has been to support neighborhood needs and desires. It supported the Kenton Road/Rockvale Circle neighborhood in successfully opposing the installation of a propane storage facility. It assisted the Green Street neighborhood by approving a proposal to redevelop the long-vacant Bowditch School, and it supported the Asticou/Martinwood/South Street Association in fighting the planned construction of a new state lab at the edge of the Arnold Arboretum.

The council held a community convocation at Jamaica Plain High School to deliver its annual report on its activities. Several of its subcommittees also co-sponsored a spring clean-up and the council will be conducting an election of new representatives to coincide with the preliminary election in Boston in September.

To increase the effectiveness of the Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Council, we must now work hard to broaden even further the representation we have on the council. That means reaching to those organizations and areas of Jamaica Plain we have not yet involved in the process.

The neighborhood council provides a tremendous opportunity for local residents to play a role in determining the future of our neighborhood and be involved in the decision-making process. The Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Council meets the fourth Tuesday of each month at Curtis Hall at 7 PM and we encourage neighborhood residents to attend the meetings and get involved.



Charlestown Neighborhood Council

John Tobin, Chair

The Charlestown Neighborhood Council was organized in the late spring of 1986. After being appointed by Mayor Flynn, we adopted by-laws and elected officers in relatively short order. We proceeded immediately to address important issues in the town.

The council's "shakedown cruise" lasted several months. Some nights our meetings went into the very late hours over what now seem like minor points. The members of the council clearly had to get to know each other and come to some kind of a consensus as to what we were about. That has happened as we have grappled with different issues presented to us. Hopefully, as a result, we have developed credibility in our community.

Council members have come to realize that in order to determine what is in the community's best interest, we cannot bring preconceived notions to bear in our decision-making process. We must gather the facts and listen to what people tell us.

Only when we have done this can we weigh the merits of the controversy, balance the competing interests, and make an informed and intelligent recommendation.

This is not always a successful or perfect process. We have, however, maintained a high level of participation among our members, and the public has maintained its interest in our proceedings. We have dealt with some interesting issues, particularly development topics, and we have made good decisions reflective of the wishes of a majority of the community. We have learned a great deal including the fact that we should not take ourselves too seriously, that every issue is not a question of life or death, and that a sense of humor helps us maintain an even keel.

While we are continuing to address development issues, we are now preparing to address the distribution of community linkage funds resulting from development of the Navy Yard and are drafting guidelines to inform the public of what kind of issues should be presented. We have found that we spend an inordinate amount of time on disputes between neighbors that do not affect the town as a whole.

In the final analysis, our success and credibility will be measured by our effectiveness. While the establishment of our council is an excellent example of community involvement in city government, if city government is not responsive to what we do the community will have been short-changed again. In Charlestown, our chief concern is not whether line city departments will respond, but whether the Boston Redevelopment Authority will respond to what we say and do. The community needs a few victories occasionally if we are to continue to believe that our actions are worthwhile.

Roxbury Neighborhood Council Planning and Zoning Committee

M. Daniel Richardson, Jr., Chair

Roxbury as a neighborhood and as a community faces critical planning and development decisions. Over the past year, we have been working closely with the city to establish an Interim Planning and Overlay District (IPOD), which allows the community to plan with the city for new and more appropriate zoning to guide Roxbury's future development in a way that protects and benefits its residents.

At a well attended meeting last August, the Roxbury community empowered its neighborhood council to proceed with the rezoning for the community. Responding quickly, the Planning and Zoning Committee was formed, composed of six council members, and it set to work with the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services and the BRA to implement a timetable for accomplishing its task. On May 28 of 1987, a public hearing was held at the Shelburne Center in Roxbury, and at that time the community unanimously approved the Interim Planning Overlay District documents. They will now be submitted to the BRA on June 4 and to the Zoning Commission soon after that.

The review process we embarked upon with the community was unique. Over twenty meetings were held at various locations in Roxbury during last fall and winter and this spring. At those meetings, residents worked with the council members and the city to fashion interim zoning that not only addressed issues affecting the community as a whole, but also focused on problems unique to its neighborhoods, such as Dudley Square, Hampden-George, Highland Park, Lower Roxbury, Madison Park, Sav-Mor, etc. These include:

- The provision of affordable housing for residents;
- Height limits and the preservation of open space and historic structures;
- Strong commercial areas and the prohibition of hazardous industrial and commercial uses;
- Regulations on institutional expansion; and
- Promotion of manufacturing uses that create jobs and benefit the local residents and economy.

The IPOD amendment, the legislation that establishes interim controls for the neighborhood, will lay a solid basis for new zoning. The text amendments and the maps—the document itself—represent just a beginning in this important effort. We now have twenty-four months to work out the details and to come up with a zoning code that reflects more completely the community's input and its desires. However, the Planning and Zoning Committee of the neighborhood council can't do all the work itself. We need and want the participation and the involvement of the entire community to get this work done.

Copies of the interim zoning document are available at the BRA's Dudley site office at 2406 Washington St. We encourage people to take a look at it, to discuss it with friends and neighbors, and to get involved in planning for your and your family's future.

Allston/Brighton Planning and Zoning Advisory Committee

Mary McLaughlin, Chair

The Allston-Brighton Planning and Zoning Advisory Committee (PZAC) is a necessary committee within a growing community. "Condomania" has hit Allston-Brighton. Families can no longer afford to live here. Rents and housing prices have skyrocketed. Allston-Brighton is centrally located to downtown Boston, near the Mass Pike, etc., and is very attractive to developers and young professionals, who can afford the rents. Almost daily you hear of new development proposals or conversions to condominiums.

Since May 1986, when Mayor Flynn appointed the Allston-Brighton PZAC, the city and the neighborhood have held many meetings to identify major planning issues affecting our community. The discussions were held for the purpose of drafting an Allston-Brighton Interim Planning Overlay District (IPOD), a special amendment to the Boston zoning code which will allow us to review development in our neighborhood for the next two years and to make recommendations for future zoning that is more compatible with our neighborhood. Over the past ten months, the committee has been meeting, scrutinizing each area of Allston-Brighton to decide if current zoning is appropriate and to ascertain the needs of the community over the next several years. This process has been a good learning experience for us all and gives us an opportunity to really contribute to our neighborhood's future.

Recently, policy recommendations based on our planning and zoning discussions were presented to the community by the city. The focus of the new interim zoning is to protect the residential character of Allston-Brighton, to relieve development pressure from market forces and institutions on the existing housing stock, and to direct growth to new areas. Benefits of planned development in our community include affordable housing for our residents, and adequate parking and open space. After the IPOD is presented to the BRA board, it goes to the Zoning Commission for approval, and then to the mayor.

I hope, after all the hard work we have done and all the discussions over the past many months, that the community will accept the recommendations of the PZAC. We've worked very hard to make sure that the community plays a lead role in the process in setting goals for what Allston-Brighton will look like in the years to come.

Port Norfolk Planning and Zoning Advisory Committee

James King, Chair

Port Norfolk is a peninsula of Dorchester, literally cut off by the South East Expressway and railway lines. Our 1,000 residents live mostly in mid-nineteenth-century houses which border on an industrial zone around the perimeter of the harbor. Recently our community has been facing development pressures. In August, 1985, the city's Zoning Commission voted unanimously to approve the first Interim Overlay Planning District (IPOD) for Port Norfolk.

An appointed advisory committee began to meet last year to study the Port Norfolk area in order to determine what zoning changes will be needed to ensure that development is compatible with the residential character of the neighborhood. And while plans and new zoning regulations are being developed with the community, permits for projects to move forward are being granted only to developers who meet a stringent set of requirements, such as physical and visual access to the waterfront for area residents and opportunities for water-based recreation and open space. Another very positive sign that future development in Port Norfolk will benefit the community is the Metropolitan District Commission's purchase of the old Shaffer Paper site for its Neponset River park, which will add to the area's open space.

Our aim as members of the Port Norfolk Planning and Zoning Advisory Committee (PZAC) is to keep the Port what it always has been—a strong neighborhood, primarily residential, but one that will also include water-related industrial development, water transportation, boat-repair operations, retail and light commercial at Marina Bay, and parkland and open space as well as other public amenities. The process of working together has been an extremely positive one. We are on our way to ensuring that we can implement these ideas through a series of guidelines:

- Where possible, we want to see that any new construction in the Port be in conformity with the average size building now in existence (about two-and-a-half stories);
- We will work to oppose the granting of permission for any existing buildings that are taller than the average to be built any higher than they already are; and
- We will work to keep commercial development in the Port at a minimum by insisting that, should any present commercial property owners go out of business, replacement businesses must be of the same type.

I might add here that we are appreciative of the support and advice we have received from Barbara Tankle in Neighborhood Services and the technical assistance we have gotten from Cindy Wall in the BRA, which was particularly helpful. We are also grateful for the use of their most helpful color maps describing present business and residential zones in the area.

One future issue that we will be discussing in depth is the traffic problems on our narrow streets. We will be working on reviewing traffic patterns in upcoming meetings.

The Port Norfolk PZAC meets twice a month and has had consistent attendance and represents a broad diversity of opinion within the neighborhood. All of us are working to make sure we have the interests of the whole community at heart.

East Boston Planning and Zoning Advisory Committee

Ron Catena, Chair

The East Boston Planning and Zoning Advisory Committee (PZAC) appointed by Mayor Flynn has moved forward with the task of defining an Interim Planning Overlay District for East Boston. The PZAC, made up of a cross section of concerned East Boston citizens, has approached their assignment to the PZAC with a sense of deep commitment to the East Boston community and concern for the quality of life for all East Boston residents.

Ever mindful of East Boston's attractive location for development, the PZAC members met in a "marathon" weekend session in early December to establish sub-districts and special study districts to ensure an intelligent approach to future development in East Boston, particularly along the East Boston waterfront.

The PZAC members and the East Boston community praise Mayor Flynn for his sensitivity in addressing the concerns of the community regarding future development by appointing a citizen's panel to provide input into the future of East Boston's growth. The PZAC has responded by addressing their assignments with enthusiasm, zeal, and a strong commitment to listen to all who wish to be heard.

ABOVE (from left):

Speaking at a Mayor's Office of Consumer Affairs and Licensing meeting in the Fenway/Kenmore area in support of the neighborhood are Joseph Amarsino, vice president for Community Relations at BU and, to his left, Ed Burke, Neighborhood Services coordinator. The community was successful in opposing both an entertainment and a liquor license for Spinoff.

The Reverend William Loesch, chair of the Codman Square Neighborhood Council and Diane Payne, coordinator, listen to what a developer is proposing at a recent meeting.

Judy Bracken, coordinator for Allston-Brighton, enjoys a laugh at Planning and Zoning Advisory Committee (PZAC) meeting in Brighton.

Lucy Ferullo of Neighborhood Services details the concerns of the East Boston community on the reconstruction of the Saratoga St. Bridge for the state's Department of Public Works.



The entrance to Boston's Chinatown, one of two city neighborhoods represented by the Chinatown/South Cove Neighborhood Council.



Mayor Flynn meets with members of the Codman Square Neighborhood Council at the Parkman House. To the mayor's left is coordinator Diane Payne, and to his right is Don Gillis, director of Neighborhood Services.

Mayor Gets Good Counsel from Neighborhood Councils

Since coming into office, Mayor Flynn has worked to open the doors of City Hall to Boston residents of all ages, races, and incomes. Neighborhood people have been appointed to numerous city boards, commissions, and advisory committees. In addition, the mayor continues to encourage community participation in decisions ranging from the disposition of city-owned property, to ways of improving transportation within the city, to plans for upgrading Boston harbor.

Committees Guarantee Neighborhood Benefits

The city has also established two important initiatives aimed at strengthening the ties between the neighborhoods and government: neighborhood councils and planning and zoning advisory committees (PZACs).

Neighborhood councils are made up of twenty-one community residents appointed by the mayor. These councils work with the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services to improve the delivery of basic city services and to provide neighborhood input into development decisions affecting their neighborhood.

PZACs are community-based advisory groups responsible for developing a blueprint for their neighborhood's future. PZACs work with Neighborhood Services and the BRA to develop planning and zoning recommendations that will influence the kind of neighborhood development that takes place for years to come.

Both neighborhood councils and PZACs are unique in the extent to which they involve neighborhood people in decisions that traditionally have been the exclusive domain of "official" city government.

City and Neighborhood Work Together

David Wong, of the Chinatown Neighborhood Council, said, "I feel the neighborhood council has pulled the city and the Chinatown community together. We can now better solve the problems that we face in the community—city service and public safety problems. Before we had a neighborhood council, we didn't know who to go to to get services improved. I think neighborhood councils are good for our neighborhood and for the city."

Neighborhood councils are now operating in seven Boston neighborhoods: Charlestown, Roxbury, Jamaica Plain, Chinatown, the North End/Waterfront, West Roxbury, and the Codman Square section of Dorchester. These neighborhood councils have been involved in scores of important neighborhood issues, from cleaning up vacant lots in Codman Square to recommending changes in multimillion dollar development projects in Chinatown.

Working with Neighborhood Services, the West Roxbury Neighborhood Council won a major victory for their residents by helping win passage of a zoning amendment that protected a section of the V.F.W. Parkway from unwanted commercial development. The new zoning maintains the area's strongly residential character. William McDonough, a member of the West Roxbury Neighborhood Council, noted that "the council was instrumental in bringing this issue to the attention of the mayor and in influencing the Zoning Commission to approve the rezoning."

Zoning Important Tool for Neighborhoods

PZACs were established so that, rather than simply playing a reactive role when threatened by unwanted development, neighborhood residents can play an active role in mapping their neighborhood's future. Mayor Flynn established the first PZAC in Allston-Brighton in early 1986. Three others have since been established in East Boston, the Port Norfolk section of Dorchester, and on Boylston St. in the Back Bay. Working with Neighborhood Services and the BRA, PZACs are charged with helping the city update an outdated zoning code, correcting inappropriate zoning, and ensuring that future land uses are compatible with the surrounding community.

Angelo Musto, former president of the East Boston Chamber of Commerce, summed up the value of this kind of community input when he said, "The East Boston PZAC gives residents and local business people an opportunity to influence zoning decisions that will affect their lives and their children's lives for years to come. Many of us have been committed to this neighborhood all our lives. And we want to have a say in what stays the same, and the ability to influence what changes. It's a big responsibility, but we're up to it."

Other committees working with the city and the neighborhoods on housing and development issues include: the Institutional Transportation Planning Advisory Committee (for Mission Hill, Fenway Medical area); the Prudential Project Advisory Committee (PRUPAC); the South End Neighborhood Housing Initiative (SENHI) Community Planning Process; the Harborpark Advisory Committee; the Transportation Advisory Committee; and the Fan Pier Civic Advisory Committee.

"The East Boston PZAC gives residents and local business people an opportunity to influence zoning decisions that will affect their lives and their children's lives for years to come. ... It's a big responsibility, but we're up to it."

Angelo Musto, former president, East Boston Chamber of Commerce

NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES

continued from p.1

Frank Moy, director of Community Health Programs at St. Elizabeth's Hospital and president of the Brighton Board of Trade, noted, "I know that the office can't solve every problem. But it is extremely reassuring that it's a two-way street and that working with the community is a priority in Neighborhood Services in resolving issues."

Neighborhood Services—The Office of Results

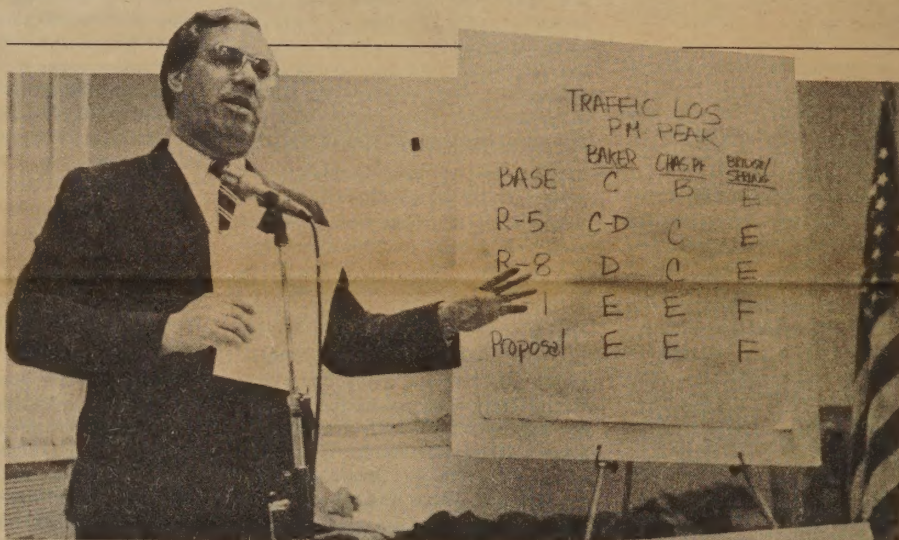
A coordinator from Neighborhood Services is assigned to each neighborhood and serves as a direct link between the neighborhood and the Mayor's Office. The coordinator works with community organizations, churches, business and civic associations, and city departments to coordinate service delivery and to ensure that neighborhood concerns are adequately responded to.

Tom Cunha, president of the Charlestown Economic Development Corporation and a member of the Charlestown Neighborhood Council, said, "Neighborhood Services has been super, extremely helpful."

When I call, I get a response. This office has literally broken down the walls of government to fine dust. It's cut down red tape. I would also say that it has worked well with the council by helping us along in dealing with critical development issues."

Don Gillis, director of the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services, said, "Our office is seen as a place to achieve results. That is why we have attracted activists who have advocated on behalf of their neighborhoods for years to work for their neighborhoods within City Hall. Our staff have deep roots in their neighborhoods and are connected to their constituencies. Through the Office of Neighborhood Services, we have opened the door of City Hall to the neighborhoods."

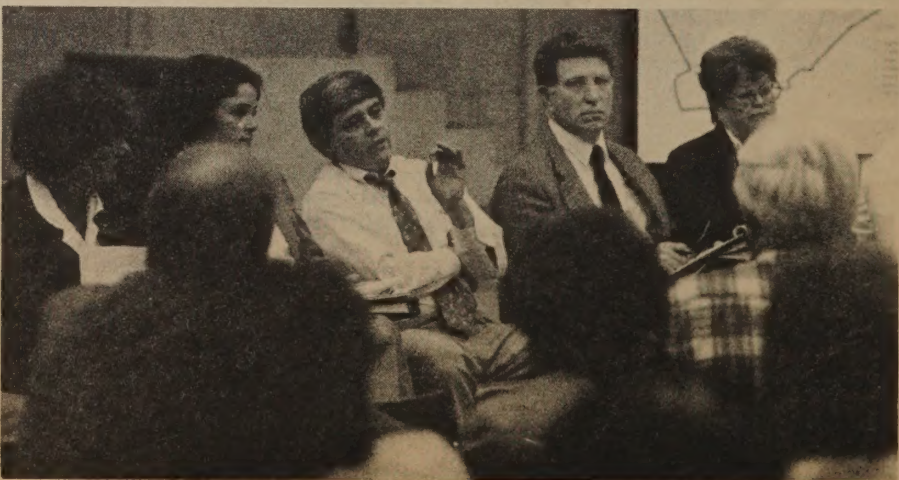
Mayor Flynn said, "Through the Office of Neighborhood Services, a true partnership is forged between the neighborhoods and city government. I believe that citizen involvement in the design, outreach, and execution of each initiative is crucial to its success."



City Councillor Thomas Menino speaks on behalf of the neighborhood at a meeting in West Roxbury. The West Roxbury Neighborhood Council won a major victory for the residents of their area by helping win passage of a zoning amendment that will protect a section of the V.F.W. Parkway from unwanted commercial development.



Tom Cunha of the Charlestown Neighborhood Council wants to gather the facts before making his recommendation on a development in his community. Seated with Tom are (from left) Betty Golden, Julia Rodriguez, and Mel Stillman.



BRA director Stephen Coyle (center) explains a recommendation on zoning to residents of Allston-Brighton. To Coyle's left are Ray Mellone and Mary McLaughlin, co-chairs of the PZAC.

“I see the (planning and zoning) process as a totally novel and unique way to involve citizens in the effort to strengthen their community and affect positively their quality of life. And the zoning document reviewed and ratified by the community on May 28 is just a beginning for us in terms of planning and setting ground rules for Roxbury’s future.”

Dan Richardson, chair, Roxbury Neighborhood Council Planning and Zoning Committee



Boston City Council President Bruce Bolling plants a new tree at the Roxbury YMCA as part of the “Pickin’ Up the Neighborhood” clean-up campaign.

City and Neighborhood Move Forward on Roxbury Rezoning

In an unprecedented grassroots planning and zoning process, the Mayor’s Office of Neighborhood Services, the Roxbury Neighborhood Council, and the Boston Redevelopment Authority (BRA), held over twenty meetings in the Roxbury community during the fall, winter, and spring and involved over 800 residents in a cooperative effort to address outdated and inappropriate zoning in Roxbury through the establishment of an Interim Planning Overlay District (IPOD).

Dan Richardson, chair of the planning and zoning committee of the neighborhood council, said, “I see the process as a totally novel and unique way to involve citizens in the effort to strengthen their community and affect positively their quality of life. And the zoning document reviewed and ratified by the community on May 28 is just a beginning for us in terms of planning and setting ground rules for Roxbury’s future. We now have two years to continue to involve residents in the details of rezoning Roxbury.”

IPOD—Ends Fear of Unbridled Speculation and Displacement

An IPOD, a special protective amendment to the Boston Zoning Code, is designed to allow comprehensive planning and rezoning of a neighborhood with the active participation of the residents for a period of up to two years. Harold Hughey, Roxbury coordinator in Neighborhood Services, noted that “Boston’s zoning code is twenty years old. The IPOD process allows for a comprehensive planning study of the neighborhood to determine what zoning changes, if any, will be needed to ensure compatible commercial and industrial development with the residential character of the community. The community will also be given a chance for expanded review of all the various development proposals while the rezoning process is underway.”

Following the May 28 community meeting at the Shelburne Center, the IPOD amendment goes before the BRA, the Zoning Commission, and to the mayor for his signature before its final enactment. Mayor Flynn said, “Through the use of interim zoning in Roxbury, residents can plan with the city for a future without the fear of unbridled speculation and displacement.”

What Rezoning Effort Accomplishes

“The rezoning effort going on in many of Boston’s neighborhoods,” said Linda Bourque, assistant director of zoning in the BRA, “will benefit the city in many ways. It allows communities to work cooperatively with City Hall to define the kinds of development that best suit that neighborhood; it allows for greater review of projects; and it gives the city an opportunity, based on that input, to guide development to where the greatest benefits can be derived for residents.”

Some of the provisions of the interim zoning call for:

- More affordable housing for residents;
- The preservation of open space and historic structures;
- Height limitations on all buildings;
- Strengthening neighborhood commercial districts;
- Parking requirements in residential areas and improved transit access and pedestrian ways; and
- Promotion of manufacturing uses that create jobs for neighborhood residents and benefit the local economy.

“For the first time in decades,” said the mayor, “Boston is making economic development and the development of affordable housing a priority for Roxbury. These zoning proposals and the community-based planning that they represent, will ensure that the people of Roxbury will be full participants in Roxbury’s future growth.”

CLEAN-UPS

continued from p. 3

In addition, after a lengthy court process, the residents and the city were successful in evicting an illegal auto repair shop on Edgewood St., and PFD and Neighborhood Services are now working with the neighborhood to put the property back into productive use.

In the Highland Park area of Roxbury, \$15,000 was committed to clean up the vacant land along Valentine, Fulda, and Marcella Streets. The city secured its property and baited the entire area for rodents. Diane Payne, neighborhood coordinator for the area, said, “The neighborhood has given its support for our efforts in cleaning up this area, and we have developed an excellent working relationship with residents. The community will be an important part of the process in planning for the future of this area.”

ISD to Put Private Owners on Notice

Eighty percent of the vacant property in the city is privately owned, and the city’s Inspectional Services Department (ISD) has notified the 13,000 owners of private vacant lots of their responsibility. Commissioner William Sommers of ISD, said, “We’ve sent out letters to owners of vacant lots informing them that they must adhere to the State Sanitary Code and do their part in keeping their property clean. If not, ISD will begin the legal enforcement process to see that rubbish, debris, and abandoned cars are removed.”

Sommers also noted that the city has stepped up legal efforts, which include placing tax liens against private owners to recover any expense the city may incur as a result of the cleaning.

“Crackdown” Plan

The vacant lot crackdown calls for:

- Inspectional Services Department (ISD) inspectors to inspect vacant lots that have been brought to the attention of Neighborhood Services as particular trouble spots;
- Owners to be cited for violations of city and state sanitary codes and required to clean up lots; and
- Those who don’t comply to be taken to court, with the worst lots being cleaned by the city and municipal liens attached to the private owner to recover the cost.

The city has also won approval to increase dumping fines up to \$1000 for illegal dumpers and is working to have the Boston Housing Court make owners secure their vacant lot to prevent further dumping.

In addition, an independent review has been conducted for Neighborhood Services to establish procedures for the ongoing maintenance and security of vacant properties in the city. Recommendations in the study are being reviewed and discussed with neighborhood groups. At the same time, the city’s Public Facilities Department (PFD) is developing a program to dispose of small, undevelopable lots to abutters, who can use the property for driveways, yards, or gardens.

The “Citizen’s Guide to Zoning for Boston” is an excellent handbook outlining the basic principles of zoning and detailing the citizen’s role in the zoning process. Copies are available from Public Information at the BRA.



Harold Hughey, Roxbury coordinator (left) and Dan Richardson, chair of the zoning committee of the Roxbury Neighborhood Council, go over the zoning map for residents.



Residents at a community meeting in Roxbury hear from the Public Facilities Department on plans for the redevelopment of city-owned parcels in the area.



Fire Commissioner Leo Stapleton with a Boston firefighter. Through the city's Capital Plan, over 60 percent of all front-line firefighting equipment has been replaced since 1984.

City Establishes Task Force to Aid Fire Victims

"Those of you who have ever experienced fire, or know those who have, are aware that the devastation and confusion does not end after the last ember has been extinguished," says Lucy Ferullo of the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services, head of the Fire Victims Assistance Task Force.

A recent report of the Boston Arson Prevention Commission called for a task force to look into problems faced by fire victims. Lucy Ferullo was called upon to head the committee along with two members of Project Welcome, an organization based in East Boston that assists fire victims. The task force has just completed a report which identifies problems faced by fire victims in Boston and contains recommendations to address these problems. One of the first services to be set up by the task force will be a multilingual fire assistance emergency phone number where a resident who has been victimized by fire can call to find out what services he/she and their family may be eligible for.

Emergency Hotlines in 7 Languages

"It's clear service delivery to fire victims in Boston needs attention," notes Marilyn Lee Tom, executive director of the Chinatown Neighborhood Council and a member of

the task force. "Fire Department reports and Red Cross reports often did not agree with one another. And often there were no services to treat the psychological trauma suffered by fire victims or adequate provisions for housing." "The Fire Victims Assistance Task Force," continues Ferullo, "was formed out of the increasingly important need to clarify and expedite service delivery to fire victims. Until the task force began to meet about a year and a half ago, fire victims often faced complicated and redundant procedures as they attempted to regain their basic needs."

When the emergency phone number is set up, a fire victim will be able to call and get information in seven languages—English, Spanish, French, Creole, Vietnamese, Cambodian, and Chinese—as to where immediate food, clothing, and shelter needs can be met—critical factors in being able to rebuild lives after fire.

Another important benefit of the task force efforts has been the development of a model of collaboration among neighborhood community groups, city and state offices, and social service agencies. It is precisely because these groups were able to cooperate that better assistance will be offered to the victims of fire.

Neighborhood Street Sweeping Program

How many times have you seen a street sweeper riding up and down the middle of the street, unable to reach the curb because of parked cars? Mayor Flynn asked the same question of many Boston residents before implementing the Neighborhood Street Sweeping Program.

The Neighborhood Street Sweeping Program combines a regular street sweeping schedule with an enforcement program in which residents who do not obey parking regulations on street sweeping days are fined \$15.00 by the Transportation Department. The enforcement period lasts from April 1, through November 30, and regulations are clearly posted on signs in affected areas.

The success of the sweeping program in the target areas allowed for the expansion of the program into seventeen neighborhoods. Neighborhood Services is now planning to expand the program into additional residential areas as well to include major neighborhood arteries.

Boston Youth Clean-up Corps

Last August, hundreds of young people marched to City Hall plaza for a noontime rally. They were not protesting, however, they were merely celebrating the last day of their summer job at a picnic hosted by Mayor Flynn.

This year, the Youth Clean-up Corps will begin its second summer. Expanded to 240 youngsters and run by the Boston Community Schools in cooperation with the Boys and Girls Clubs of Boston, the Clean-up Corps will target playgrounds and vacant lots all over the city.

"Not only did these kids do a great job cleaning up some eyesores in the city," said Mayor Flynn, "but they also learned how much people want and appreciate a clean city." Look for the Boston Youth Clean-up Corps this summer on a street, park, or vacant lot near you.

"In Jamaica Plain we have a unique opportunity to help residents in solving their parking problems before they arise due to the opening of the new Orange Line."

Pat Jones, director, Residential Parking Permit Program, Transportation Department

Resident Parking—A Neighborhood Program That Works

It can be very aggravating to come home from work early and not be able to find a parking place near your home because someone else from outside your neighborhood has parked there so he/she could walk to the "T" and ride downtown. And it keeps happening. So what do you do? You work with the residents in your neighborhood, the city's Transportation Department, and the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services to get a resident permit parking program for your neighborhood.

"A resident permit parking program is designed to give residents preference to the limited number of legal curbside spaces within their neighborhood," explains Richard Dimino, Commissioner of the city's Transportation Department. "The permit sticker gives residents the legal right to park on their neighborhood streets where the parking program is in effect. Those who do not have a resident permit are not legally able to park there."

Commercial Areas Get Help from Parking Program

While the program is designed for the specific needs of the residential neighborhood, it also provides for the needs of visitors and local businesses, according to Dimino. This is accomplished by the enforcement of the "Two-Hour Parking Resident Permit Exempt" provision, or by setting aside space in a resident permit parking area for visitor parking with short-term "Two-Hour Parking" for the commercial areas.

The first resident permit parking program was instituted on Beacon Hill because residential parking in that neighborhood was virtually made impossible by all-day parking by people who worked nearby. The program significantly diminished the problem.

"Since then," said Dimino, "The program has been expanded to include East Boston, Mission Hill, Back Bay, South End, Bay Village, North End, South Boston, Leather District, Chinatown, Fenway-Kenmore, Allston-Brighton, and Charlestown."

Resident Parking for Jamaica Plain in the Works

"Right now, Jamaica Plain is interested in establishing a resident parking program," said Jim Murray, neighborhood coordinator in Neighborhood Services. "The Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services is working with the community through the Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Council and the city's Transportation Department to develop a plan for the implementation of the program in the greater part of Jamaica Plain. This is in anticipation of the opening of the new MBTA Orange Line this spring. This program will head off the commuter parking problem that would normally be associated with the opening of a major commuter transportation line."

"Most recently," continued Murray, "we expanded the resident parking program in Mission Hill in response to residents' requests for assistance from the city. The effort was successful chiefly because of the hard work and cooperation of the residents, community groups, and individuals who worked to gather the necessary petitions bearing the names of over 50 percent of the permanent residents of the area."

Pat Jones, director of the Residential Parking Permit Program in the city's Transportation Department, said "In Jamaica Plain we have a unique opportunity to help residents in solving their parking problems before they arise due to the opening of the new Orange Line. Once the petitions go out, it is up to the residents themselves to get the process moving so that the program can be implemented as quickly as possible."

After the petitions are collected, the Transportation Department does a field survey to verify the signatures and plan the necessary street postings and possible reconfiguration of traffic patterns.

"As we know," said Commissioner Dimino, "each of Boston's neighborhoods is unique. So, to a certain extent, each resident permit program must be specially tailored to fit each of its neighborhoods. We are ready to work with the communities and with Neighborhood Services to design parking programs that will balance the needs of residents, businesses, and visitors to our neighborhoods."



Look for the Boston Youth Clean-up Corps this summer at a park or vacant lot in your neighborhood.



A clean street in Jones Hill, Dorchester. Starting July 1, the city expands its neighborhood street sweeping program to new streets and roadways. The pilot program, established in 1985, now encompasses twenty-four areas and six major arterials.



Jamaica Plain residents take a close look at the map of the neighborhood where the resident parking program will be instituted.

A Neighborhood Information Glossary

The following information is designed to make it easier for you to get your questions answered by the correct department with as few phone calls as possible. If you read through each department's description, you should be able to find out what they do and if they can help you with your questions or problems.

Boston Arson Prevention Commission (BAPC)

The arson commission, which is made up of eight commissioners appointed from the neighborhoods and seven ex-officio members, holds hearings upon request in the neighborhoods on arson and housing-related issues. Commission members also meet monthly to set policy based on information gathered in the neighborhoods by community researchers on staff at the commission. Information on problem properties is also given to law enforcement investigators. An educational slide show is available on arson, housing abandonment, and displacement for use by community and civic organizations and schools. To report arson, call the Arson Hotline at the Boston Fire Department, **44-ARSON**. The arson commission is located in Room 113 at City Hall. For more information, call your community researcher at **725-3609**.

Board of Appeal (ZBA)

This board is an independent body made up of five members which meets weekly in Room 801 at City Hall to hear from individuals and/or institutions who have been denied a building permit or a change in use or occupancy permit from the Inspectional Services Department because the proposed project violates the city's zoning code. If a property owner is denied the permit by ISD, he/she must appear before the Board of Appeal to request a variance from the Boston Zoning Code or a conditional use permit which is an exception to the code. The Board of Appeal makes the final decisions in the case of variances or conditional use permits. For information about Board of Appeal hearings call Neighborhood Services at **725-3485** or the Board of Appeal at **725-4775**.

Boston Community Schools and Recreation Centers (BCS)

BCS offers a wide variety of services at thirty-one neighborhood facilities throughout the city. The community-governed facilities provide child care and after-school programs, alternative education for children and adults, counseling, recreation and cultural services, among others. To find the community school in your neighborhood call the central office, located at 26 West St., at **725-4920**.

Boston Housing Authority (BHA)

The Boston Housing Authority consists of over 18,000 units of conventional public housing in sixty-nine housing developments throughout the City of Boston, making it the fourth largest public housing agency in the country. While most units are federally funded, approximately 25 percent are funded by the commonwealth, making this the largest state-funded housing program in the country. To apply for a BHA development, you must appear in person at the central office at 52 Chauncy St. For more information, call **451-1250 x 360**.

Boston Licensing Board

This three-member board votes on and issues all alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverage license applications, food licenses, lodging house licenses, billiard and pool applications, and special one-day licenses where alcohol may be served. The Licensing Board also votes on all violations noted by police of any of the above applications. Weekly hearings are held in Rooms 240 and 801 at City Hall, and neighborhood meetings take place when requested. The commissioners are appointed by the governor, and an executive secretary is chosen by the board. For more information, call **725-4170**.

Boston Redevelopment Authority (BRA)

The BRA is the city's planning and development agency. The BRA disposes of its own properties (left under control from the urban renewal era) with an emphasis on affordable housing. The BRA provides technical staff and assistance for much of the rezoning efforts going on in the city's neighborhoods, working closely with Neighborhood Services in the area of planning and development, with the Board of Appeal on variance requests, and with the city's Zoning Commission on requests for changes in zoning. The BRA also does research and analysis of market conditions, demographics, economic trends, and household characteristics. The BRA is located on the 9th floor of City Hall. For more information, call **722-4300**.

Economic Development and Industrial Corporation of Boston (EDIC)

EDIC is one of four development agencies of the City of Boston. Its mandate is to create industrial jobs within the city. EDIC develops and manages industrial parks, provides real estate services and financial assistance to companies, and offers job training to residents through its affiliate, the Boston Technical Center. The agency is governed by a six-member board of directors. For more information, call **725-3342**.

Emergency Shelter Commission

This five-member commission is a convener and a clearinghouse for all the emergency shelters in the City of Boston. The five commissioners, who represent different shelters and agencies involved with the homeless, meet every two weeks to address emergency shelter concerns. The commission also refers individuals to appropriate agencies and does research on homeless issues. Call **725-4507** for information and referrals.

Environment Department

The six commissions making up the department are responsible for the physical and natural resources of the entire city. The commissions are:

- **Air Pollution Control Commission**, which enforces city and state air and noise pollution.
- **Boston Art Commission**, which is responsible for city-owned public art.
- **Back Bay Architectural Commission**, which protects the Back Bay's historic architecture.
- **Beacon Hill Architectural Commission**, which is the oldest historic commission in Massachusetts and protects Beacon Hill's historic character.
- **Boston Conservation Commission**, which enforces the state Wetlands Protection Act.
- **Boston Landmarks Commission**, which is the city's historic preservation agency.

The Environment Department also plays a major role in the clean-up of Boston Harbor. For more information call **725-4416** or **725-3850**.

Boston Fair Housing Commission (BFHC)

This agency's mission is to ensure an end to unlawful discrimination in the sale, rental, or purchase of housing in Boston, and it has overall responsibility for implementing the city's Fair Housing Policy. BFHC investigates complaints, publishes its findings, subpoenas witnesses, and takes testimony. It also produces informational materials in multiple languages on fair housing. Fair Housing is located on the 9th floor at City Hall. For more information call **725-4408**.

Mayor's Commission on Affairs of the Elderly

The Elderly Commission plans, coordinates, and monitors public, private, and voluntary programs serving Boston's 100,000 elders. In addition, the commission offers a wide variety of direct services including:

- **Community Service Advocates**, who provide access to government entitlements for neighborhood residents.
- **Employment Volunteers**, who assist elders in obtaining meaningful jobs in both the work and volunteer setting.
- **Health Screenings** for vision and hearing at community sites.
- **Nursing Home Program**, which assists families in finding placement
- **Boston Seniority**, which is an information-packed monthly newsletter.
- **Senior Shuttle**, which offers twenty-five vans for free transportation to and from a variety of appointments and events.
- **Elder Hotline, 24 hours at 725-4646**. To find out more, call **725-4366**

Mayor's Office of Business and Cultural Development (BCD)

This office provides a variety of services to residents of Boston including:

- **Special Events**. Neighborhood groups may receive assistance with traditional celebrations, civic ceremonies, ethnic festivals, etc. Call **725-3911** for more information.
- **Business Assistance**. This office acts as a liaison between local businesses and city agencies. Call **725-4446** for more information.



The city's Department of Inspectional Services (ISD) has moved to spacious and attractive new quarters on the 5th floor of 1010 Massachusetts Avenue and is near three different MBTA stops. The new phone number is 442-0046.



Everyone lends a hand to clean up a vacant lot in the Dudley Triangle area of Roxbury.

Mayor's Office of Cable Communications

This office regulates Cablevision of Boston, the city's cable television company. It also programs cable Channel A-22, Boston's municipal TV station, where residents can receive information on city programs and services such as the home weatherization program, documentaries on specific departments such as Inspectional Services and Fair Housing, and news events such as the visit of President Corazón Aquino of the Philippines to Boston. The cable office phone number is **725-3112**.

Mayor's Office of Consumer Affairs and Licensing

This office is responsible for the regulation of Boston's entertainment industry. It issues licenses for automatic amusements such as video arcades as well as licenses for concerts, nightclubs, dances, and all public functions and shows, regardless of whether or not a fee is charged. The commissioner holds formal and informal hearings in the neighborhoods and makes the final decision regarding the granting, suspension, or revocation of entertainment licenses. For more information on *CONSUMER* issues, call **725-3320**. For information regarding *LICENSING*, call **725-4165**.

Mayor's Office of Jobs and Community Services (JCS)

JCS provides a variety of services to eligible Boston residents to enable them to participate in the current growth of the city's economy. These services include education, job training, and support services. JCS is located at 15 Beacon St. The telephone number is **720-4300**.

Commission on Handicapped Affairs

This commission makes recommendations and provides comprehensive coordination and support to city departments concerning policies, programs, services and referrals, and regulations as they affect persons with disabilities. The commission is located in Room 708 at City Hall and can be reached at **725-3682**.

Human Rights Commission

This commission investigates complaints of discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, age, national origin, disability, sexual orientation, source of income, etc., and recommends actions and/or sanctions to the mayor. The offices of the commission are located in Suite 716 at City Hall and the telephone number is **725-3562**.

Inspectional Services Department (ISD)

ISD consists of the following divisions: Plans and Permits, Buildings and Structures, Health Inspection, Housing Inspection, Weights and Measures, Animal Control Unit, and the Rodent Control Unit. The department is charged with the issuance of building permits, the inspection of construction sites, and the inspection of housing and commercial food establishments for sanitary and general conditions. ISD also inspects all commercial weighing devices. Inspectional Services is now located on the 5th floor of 1010 Massachusetts Avenue in Roxbury. Call **442-0046** for more information.

Public Facilities Department (PFD)

PFD has two major responsibilities: 1) The production and rehabilitation of affordable housing units; and 2) The rebuilding of the city's public infrastructure. PFD has a wide variety of programs that provide assistance and service to the neighborhoods, such as the Investor Owner Rental Rehab Program, which provides financial assistance for rehab; the sale of foreclosed properties to the public through the Residential Development Program; LEND or Loans to Encourage Neighborhood Development, which assists neighborhood development projects; and Grassroots, among others, which helps nonprofits fix up vacant lots for play areas or gardens. PFD is also responsible for carrying out nearly 60 percent of Mayor Flynn's five-year, \$800-million Capital Improvements Plan which includes the construction of new police stations and branch libraries, and repairs to health care centers, schools, fire stations, and recreation facilities. City property is surplus through and contracts for capital improvements are voted on by the three-member Public Facilities Commission. The telephone number is **725-3400**.

Transportation Department

In January 1987 the state legislature officially changed the name of the Boston Traffic and Parking Department to the Transportation Department, which describes more accurately the expanding responsibilities of this 400-member agency that develops, implements, maintains, and enforces the transportation-related regulations in the city. Among the many programs geared to the neighborhoods are: the Resident Parking Program; the installation of new traffic signals; enforcement of parking regulations for street cleaning programs; Neighborhood Maintenance Program; and towing programs directed toward public safety violators in neighborhoods like Beacon Hill and the North End. The Transportation Department is located in Room 721, City Hall. For additional information regarding these or other programs, call **725-4680**.

Boston Water and Sewer Commission

The Water and Sewer Commission is responsible for managing the city's water mains and sewer system. The commission inspects connections on lines, upgrades service, and answers consumer questions about billing. The commission also provides technical assistance to new housing developments and advises on code standards. The commission is located at 10 Post Office Square and can be reached at **426-6046** 24 hours a day.

Zoning Commission

This board is made up of eleven members who meet on a regular basis to adopt changes in the Boston Zoning Code and new maps and text amendments to the code. Changes in the zoning code can be recommended by the residents and community groups and by the BRA. Zoning changes must be signed by the mayor before they officially become part of the Boston Zoning Code. For more information on zoning activity in your neighborhood, call Neighborhood Services at **725-3485** or the Zoning Department at the BRA at **722-4300**.

Now in design for Hyde Park Police Station is a second stage of improvements which will restore cellblocks and the administrative offices. By 1988, Hyde Park will once again have a fully staffed neighborhood police station.

Police Stations in Allston-Brighton and Mattapan Break Ground

As part of the city's five-year, \$800-million Capital Plan, the Flynn Administration has begun the construction of a new \$3.5-million, full-service police station for Mattapan and Dorchester. The city has also reopened the ninety-three-year-old Allston-Brighton District 14 police station at a cost of \$450,000 after upgrading the facility with exterior and interior renovation to include the Police Department's Sexual Assault Unit and handicapped access improvements.

Other full-service neighborhood police stations are in design phase including a new station in Jamaica Plain, the replacement of the existing facility in South Boston, complete rehabilitation of the former Charlestown Police Station, and the upgrading and repair of the East Boston and Hyde Park facilities.

Now in design for Hyde Park is a second stage of improvements which will restore cellblocks and the administrative offices. By 1988, Hyde Park will once again have a fully staffed neighborhood police station.

Building Security for Our Neighborhoods

Mayor Flynn said, "Mattapan is one of a number of Boston neighborhoods that will see a vitally needed police station fully restored. We are building security for the residents in the city through an investment of \$28 million for public safety." After decades of sporadic and insufficient investment in the repair, reconstruction, and replacement of a number of its facilities, the city is currently engaged in a capital plan that will bring a broad range of other improvements to our neighborhoods.

"The renovations carried out at Station 14 by the Public Facilities Department," said Lisa Chapnick, director of PFD, "such as the installation of a handicap ramp, expanded space for the sexual assault unit, and the construction of an ambulance bay, will help the police provide better services to the citizens of Allston-Brighton."

\$75 Million to Go to Parks System

Mary Nee, director of the Mayor's Office of Capital Planning added, "Last year twenty-three parks and playgrounds were budgeted for capital improvements. This fiscal year, an additional twenty-five parks and playgrounds will see new improvements. And between 1988 and 1991, another twenty parks will be renovated annually. Additionally the city will be purchasing new maintenance equipment and will be restoring the buildings and grounds at the city's three operating and sixteen historic cemeteries. The mayor's Capital Plan is a true blueprint for Boston's future, the first time in decades that Boston has a master plan for rebuilding its neighborhood facilities."



Jamaica Plain branch library on Sedgwick St., one of many neighborhood libraries to see capital improvements through the city's five-year Capital Plan.

Additional Capital Plan Highlights

Fire Department:

- Sixty percent of all front-line firefighting equipment replaced since 1984.
- Construction underway or complete for eighteen of thirty-three firehouses needing immediate repair. Remainder in design stage.

Police Department:

- Handicapped access improvements at Police Headquarters and Districts B, C, and D.
- Design of new enhanced 911 and Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD), a new juvenile detention facility downtown, and rehabilitation of cellblocks.

School Department:

- Completion of first year Unified Facilities Plan.
- Holland School repairs underway and ahead of schedule.
- Increased school facility funding by \$31 million in 1986 five-year Capital Plan.

City's Health Facilities:

- Design and planning for new acute-care in-patient facility to begin 1987.
- Purchase of \$1.7 million in new hospital equipment.
- Improvements to Mattapan and Long Island Hospital will include facility improvements and a new service center at Long Island for the mentally ill homeless.
- Renovations and structure improvements planned for Whittier Street, North End, Uphams Corner, Harvard Street, Hyde Park, and East Boston Neighborhood Health Centers.

Recreations Facilities:

- L Street Bathhouse renovation underway in South Boston.
- Gym floors replaced at Shelburne, Mission Hill, Orchard Park, and Orient Heights Recreation Centers. A new community room planned at Nazzaro Recreation Center in the North End.
- Pool repairs to Mirabella, Clougherty, Healy, Mason and Paris Street Pools.

Libraries:

- Design of general renovation near completion for nineteen branch facilities, with an addition planned for West Roxbury.
- A five-year program of exterior improvements for several neighborhood branch libraries.

Municipal Buildings:

- Renovations and repairs for Roslindale and Brighton Municipal Buildings, Curtis Hall in Jamaica Plain, and City Hall.
- Building security systems updated at 300 city-owned buildings.
- Exterior site improvements for twenty-two municipal buildings.



At the opening of the Allston-Brighton neighborhood Police Station 14, (from left), Agnes Porter, president, board of directors of the Veronica Smith Senior Center; Frank Moy, president, Brighton Board of Trade; Lisa Chapnick, PFD Director; Police Commissioner Mickey Roache; and Meaghan Elizabeth Moy. Commissioner Roache said, "Public safety is vitally important to you and to me. With the opening of these neighborhood police stations, we are rebuilding neighborhood security."



Mayor Flynn tells Hyde Park residents that the District 5 neighborhood police station in Cleary Square will become a full-service station by 1988. The city will spend \$1.3 million to renovate and restaff the facility. Standing to the mayor's right is Mary Nee, Director of Capital Planning for Boston.



When completed, the new full-service Mattapan/Dorchester police station will fill this vacant lot on Blue Hill Avenue and Morton Street.

City Steps Up Efforts to Remove Abandoned Cars

The Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services, working with the city's Department of Public Works and the Boston Police Department, has coordinated the removal of over 4,000 abandoned cars from the streets of Boston's neighborhoods over the last several months.

The number of abandoned vehicles towed has increased since 1984. That year 1,450 were removed. In 1985, 1600 were towed; in 1986, 2800; and in 1987 over 4000 have been pulled so far. In the next fiscal year, beginning July 1, 1987, the city proposes \$400,000 for the Transportation Department to tow up to 8000 abandoned cars. Stepped-up prosecution of owners is continuing. An abandoned car is one that is left on the streets for more than seventy-two hours and is worth less than the value of towing and storage.

More Cars Left on the Streets

Jim Vrabel, Assistant Director for Basic Services in Neighborhood Services, confirmed that there has been a sharp increase in the number of cars being abandoned. "What has happened," noted Vrabel, "is that there are more abandoned cars on the streets today because of the drop in scrap metal prices and in the increased cost of disposal. Therefore, owners of old cars, who used to get \$50 for their old car, now have to pay to get rid of them."

Transportation to Help in Towing Effort

"We are now removing more cars," continued Vrabel, "to meet the increase in the numbers of abandoned vehicles on the streets. We have increased our towing by nearly 60 percent since August 1, 1986. To increase further the capacity, the city is using its own tow trucks—operated by the Transportation Department—to tow abandoned cars on weekends." According to Vrabel, in the weekend efforts, several hundred cars were removed from neighborhoods all across the city.

The use of orange warning stickers has also helped in the city's removal process. Although the stickers call attention to how severe the problem has become, they have been effective in getting owners to move up to half of the cars that have been written up by police, sparing the taxpayer the cost of removal.

But the key to solving the problem, according to city officials, is to stop cars from being abandoned in the first place. At Mayor Raymond L. Flynn's direction, the Boston Police Department, working with the Transportation Department and the State Registry of Motor Vehicles, is cracking down on those who abandon their vehicles by locating the owners and preparing over 500 cases for prosecution. Abandoning a car is punishable by a fine of up to \$500, the loss of a driver's license for three months, and the loss of the right to register another car for one year.

To report an abandoned car in your neighborhood, call either the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services Constituent Services Division at 725-4500 or your area police station.

MB/B16
NBH
82

MAYOR'S OFFICE OF NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES

City of Boston
Raymond L. Flynn, Mayor
Don Gillis, Director

Neighborhood NEWS

WINTER / SPRING 1989

From the Director

The Constituent/24-Hour Services' division of the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services was one of the first offices created by Mayor Raymond L. Flynn when he took office in 1984. Five years later the office still continues to fulfill the Mayor's basic goal: to provide the residents of Boston with a point of entry to city government and to address questions, problems and concerns of all Boston neighborhoods.

Neighborhood Service coordinators and liaisons to various linguistic and ethnic communities serve as a voice for the neighborhoods in City Hall. The Constituent/24-Hour Services' staff members answer 1,500 calls per month from residents on all kinds of issues affecting their lives — from complaints about potholes to questions about housing.

This hardworking team, which represents all neighborhoods and many of Boston's ethnic groups, is at the heart of what this office does — and what the Flynn Administration is all about. The role they play is to act as bridges between the neighborhoods and city government. The range of issues that coordinators and Constituent/24-Hour Services' staff members handle are as varied as the issues that any Boston neighborhood or resident might face.

"If the day ever comes when that call for help is not the most important call you take all day, that's the day we should all get out of this business." — Mayor Ray Flynn

This is what Mayor Raymond Flynn envisioned when he established the Office of Neighborhood Services five years ago. Last winter at his second inaugural address, Mayor Flynn again pledged his commitment to give neighborhood residents a voice in city government and to respond to constituents' problems. He said, "If the day ever comes, when that call for help is not the most important call you take all day, that's the day we should all get out of this business. Because if we lose our zeal for service, then we surrender our right to serve."

It is with this commitment that we serve you. But Neighborhood Services could not operate without you — the people who get involved. As we work together to strengthen each of our neighborhoods, we hope you will join with your neighbors to continue to make each and every obstacle a stepping stone to success. I hope this newsletter provides you with useful information and is a reminder of what we can accomplish together.

Don Gillis, Director
Mayor's Office of
Neighborhood Services



Mayor Raymond L. Flynn talks with a resident of the Mary Ellen McCormack housing development in South Boston about job training and placement programs administered by the City of Boston. On September 19, volunteers knocked on doors in South Boston in an effort to spread the word about these important opportunities.

Boston Jobs For Boston Residents

On May 12 and 13, 1988, Neighborhood Services staff joined Mayor Raymond Flynn, city officials, downtown business leaders, developers and volunteers in a door-knocking campaign to more than 3,000 Mission Hill and Roxbury homes to tell residents how they can benefit from the Boston's booming downtown economy through the Boston For Boston program. A similar door-knocking campaign was held in South Boston on September 19th.

Administered by the Mayor's Office of Jobs and Community Services, the Boston For Boston program is providing Boston residents with jobs created by the major downtown businesses.

"The door knocking was a real success," says Yves Dambreville, Mattapan coordinator for the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services, who along with South Boston coordinator Ed Downs, explained to residents how they could take advantage of the Boston For Boston program.

"It was a great opportunity for us to have contact with people in neighborhoods that some of us don't deal with all of the time," said Downs. "People are very interested in the program and were genuinely appreciative that city employees were making the effort to get the word out."

As part of the Boston For Boston initiative, the city and downtown developers have opened the Boston For Boston Jobs Academy at One International Place, which offers a comprehensive job-readiness and motivation-building program for Boston residents to succeed at a job. The free program is jointly sponsored by downtown real estate development companies, including the Chiofaro Company, Jaymont Properties, the 125 High Street Limited Partnership and the Beacon Companies.

continued on p. 5

Constituent Services: A Direct Link to Government

Twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, Boston residents have a telephone number they can call about almost anything from complaining about no heat in their apartments to finding out information about a Parks Department program. The staff of the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services' Constituent/24-Hour Services Division — at 725-4500 — is always available to answer the flood of questions, concerns and calls for city services.

Each month, the office fields some 1,500 calls, according to Gerry Cuddyer, Assistant Director for Constituent/24-Hour Services. It's a job that never stops.

"Our office works around the clock all year long," noted Cuddyer, "to answer each and every call in an effort to promptly deliver city services."

The Spring and Summer months are busy ones for the Constituent Services staff. During a heat wave in early July the staff fielded up to 75 heat emergency calls per day from people — mostly elderly residents — overwhelmed by heat. Many of these callers took advantage of the "Heat Emergency Centers" operated by the city at various Community Schools.

While the warm weather brings calls concerning too much heat in addition to numerous other inquiries every day, the winter months see no-heat complaints pouring into the office. According to Cuddyer, the number of calls her office receives triples as the temperature plummets. "Calls of no-heat complaints and snow and ice conditions require immediate attention from city departments," said Cuddyer.

continued on p. 5



Mayor Flynn assists neighborhood residents in cleaning a vacant lot as part of the city's "Pickin' Up the Neighborhood" Campaign.

Neighborhoods Have Voice In Central Artery/Tunnel Project

Slated to begin this year, the more than \$4 billion project to depress the Central Artery and construct a Third Harbor Tunnel stands to be one of the largest public works projects ever in the Commonwealth or in the United States.

To ensure that residents in Boston neighborhoods will actively participate in all phases of planning and construction, Mayor Raymond L. Flynn has called for a working partnership between the state, which is overseeing the project, the city and the Boston neighborhoods that will be impacted.

Speaking at a recent meeting with civic and commercial leaders from Boston neighborhoods, the Mayor said, "The city has a critical role to play in the process, the role of making sure that this project works for the people in the neighborhoods." But while the city consistently has raised concerns about neighborhood participation, the state has not responded satisfactorily.

In addition to his concern that neighborhood residents play an active role in the project, Mayor Flynn said he is also concerned with two other pressing issues: the expected proliferation of the city's rodent population brought on by excavation work, and a commitment from the State that Boston residents get a fair share of the more than 8,000 jobs the project will generate.

According to reports, the project — which will span over 40 acres of city land and directly impact 19 neighborhoods — could result in the growth in Boston's rodent population or rodent migration into the neighborhoods.

"I don't know of anything that could have a more visible negative impact than rats running through a neighborhood," said the Mayor.

At the same meeting, Kristen McCormack, former Director of the Mayor's Office of Jobs and Community Services, emphasized the Administration's commitment to seeing Boston residents benefit from the project, especially in the area of jobs. She said the city has asked the State to comply with the Boston Jobs Ordinance, which requires that 50 percent of jobs in Boston projects go to Boston residents, 25 percent to minorities and 10 percent to women. To date, the state has refused to set hiring goals, to the disappointment of the city and the business community.

Wrote Walter Williams, chairman of the Boston Jobs Liaison Committee, in a recent letter to Governor Michael Dukakis, "It is the experience of this Committee that Boston residents, minorities, and women will not participate in the construction of the project at an adequate level without meaningful hiring goals. . . . The inactivity of the (state) Administration in addressing or even discussing this concern is disappointing."

From the start, the city's Transportation Department and the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services have taken the lead in making sure that Boston neighborhoods are strongly involved in working with the State Department of Public Works in planning and managing the project.

The city hired a team of traffic and engineering consultants, headed by Bruce Campbell of Campbell and Associates, to act as technical advisors both to city officials and neighborhood residents. Campbell's team, and representatives from the Transportation Department and Office of Neighborhood Services, have repeatedly met with groups of neighborhood leaders to provide technical assistance and help neighborhoods get answers to their questions and discuss concerns about the project.

For example, at one of a series of recent meetings, more than 60 residents from Charlestown, Beacon Hill, and Charles River Park met with officials from the Transportation Department and the Office of Neighborhood Services along with the city's consultant team to voice their concerns about the impact of the project. Residents said they wanted to know what the impact on traffic would be on Cambridge Street, where alternate routes to the Central Artery will lie, and about the current status of the planned connection of the Bowdoin

"The city has a critical role to play in the process, the role of making sure that this project works for the people in the neighborhoods." — Mayor Ray Flynn

and Charles Street station in the MBTA system. Residents noted that the session with the city was very helpful.

"Equipped with the technical information and facts that they need," said Lucy Ferullo, Associate Director for Neighborhood Planning and Development for the Office of Neighborhood Services, "residents feel on firmer ground when they meet with the state. When a major construction project is slated to happen in your neighborhood for the next ten to fifteen years, you must be able to raise concerns and feel you are getting answers to your questions."

"Part of our job is to analyze what the state is doing from a neighborhood viewpoint," said Richard Dimino, Commissioner of the Transportation Department. "Our staff, working together with the technical team we have hired for this project, will be able



The City of Boston is committed to working with community residents to ensure that the Central Artery/Third Harbor Tunnel Project provides benefits for Boston residents and does not negatively impact our neighborhoods.

to assist neighborhood residents with technical information."

Residents along the Central Artery — including South Boston, the North End, Chinatown, the South End, Charlestown, Beacon Hill and East Boston — are concerned with the potential impacts from the project.

For Emilie Pugliano, chair of the North End/Waterfront Council, the massive project spells difficulty for her community. "The project will affect both residences and businesses. It will affect the day-to-day quality of life," Pugliano observed.

Speaking of the role she sees for her neighborhood in the project, Pugliano said, "We still have to do a lot of work and planning about how we — the state, the city, and the neighborhood — will communicate with each other. Somewhere along the line the North End has got to have a strong voice," said Pugliano.

"We're in the business of making sure that neighborhoods have a strong say in the is-

ues that affect them," noted Don Gillis, Director of the Office of Neighborhood Services, who, along with Commissioner Dimino, sits on a coordinating task force of city department heads involved with the project. "Our office will be working with and advocating for the neighborhoods at every step of this project. We must insure that the neighborhoods, which will bear



Sal LaMattina, East Boston and North End coordinator for ONS, (second from right) makes a point during a meeting on the Central Artery/Third Harbor Tunnel Project.

the impacts of the construction, will also reap the many benefits that the Central Artery/Third Harbor Tunnel Project will afford not only residents of Boston, but residents of the entire metropolitan region."

Basically, the project can be broken down into two major components. The six-lane elevated section of the Interstate-93 Central Artery will be replaced with a new eight-lane — and in some places a 10-lane — road, mostly underground, between the Southeast Expressway and Charlestown. The Massachusetts Turnpike will be extended to Logan Airport by means of a Seaport Access Road passing through commercial land in South Boston and a four-lane tunnel running under Boston Harbor.

City, Neighborhoods Work Together to Identify Billboards in Violation of State Regulations

Acting on the first opportunity in five years to participate in the Commonwealth's permitting process for billboards, the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services worked with neighborhood organizations and residents throughout the city this spring to identify billboards which violate state billboard regulations.

As a result, the State Outdoor Advertising Board, holding hearings on billboard renewal permits within the city for the first time in five years, voted at their May 19, 1988 hearing to preliminarily deny the renewal of permits for 155 billboards located throughout Boston.

Many of the 155 billboards were in close proximity to Boston parks, playgrounds and other open spaces.

"This represents a significant victory for neighborhood residents," said Don Gillis, Director of the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services. "Many of these billboards are located close to parks, creating a blight on our city's parkland."

Through the spring, Neighborhood Services and the city's Inspectional Services Department inspected billboards which neighborhood residents identified as being in non-compliance with state regulations. In many neighborhoods, neighborhood-based organizations or Neighborhood Councils worked hard to identify billboards that failed to meet state regulations.

In Charlestown, a Neighborhood Council

continued on p. 3

Neighborhood News

Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services
Winter / Spring 1989

Director
Don Gillis

Executive Writer/Editor
Kevin McCaffrey

Assistant Writers/Editors
Sandra Holden
Anne Kinnane

Photographers
Don West
Steve Stanziani
Alphonso Fajardo
Julie Stone, Boston Urban Gardeners
Michele Gisser
Reggie Sheffield

Printing and Production
City of Boston Printing Section

Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services

You can contact your neighborhood coordinator in the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services by calling 725-3485. You can also visit the office, Monday through Friday, from 9:00 a.m. through 5:00 p.m., or write to:

Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services
Boston City Hall, Room 709A
Boston, MA 02201

For individuals in need of immediate or emergency services, contact the Constituent/24-Hour Services Hotline for Neighborhood Services at 725-4500. Staff is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Constituent Services walk-ins are assisted Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. through 5:00 p.m. in the Mayor's Office on the fifth floor at Boston City Hall.



The Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services worked with residents throughout the city to identify billboards that appear not to comply with state regulations. In May, the State's Outdoor Advertising Board preliminarily denied permits to over 150 Boston billboards, most of which violated regulations regarding proximity to public parks.

BILLBOARDS

continued from p. 2

committee reviewed local billboards. As a result, the Outdoor Advertising Board denied eight billboards in that neighborhood.

"I am pleased with the Outdoor Advertising Board's decision," said Ken Stone of the Charlestown Neighborhood Council. "It is good to clean up the environment by getting rid of the billboards that are as big as the buildings they stand on. We specifically targeted billboards that are in the walking line of tourists or are in sight of playgrounds. We don't need our kids playing under liquor ads."

The city will continue to work closely with Neighborhood Councils, Planning and Zoning

Advisory Committees and other neighborhood organizations to develop a policy which balances the rights of industry with neighborhood concerns for quality of life.

The city continues to work with Boston residents and the Outdoor Advertising Board to identify billboards which fail to meet state regulations.

"Many residents throughout the city worry that school children playing in their school yards and families in Boston parks must look at advertisements for cigarettes and alcohol," noted Gillis. "The Mayor shares this concern. Billboards are a significant quality of life issue for neighborhood residents."



Mayor Ray Flynn and Don Gillis, Director of the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services.

City Attacks Drug Problems in Neighborhoods

Like any major city, Boston faces the task of stemming the rising tide of drug abuse. It is a problem that affects every neighborhood and — directly or indirectly — every resident in the city.

Recognizing the serious threat drugs pose to the city, the Flynn Administration has attacked the problem on all fronts, using a variety of creative programs to address the issue of public safety, prevention and treatment.

The Administration's aggressive attack against drugs involves a combined effort among many of the city's agencies and departments — including the Boston Police Department, Boston School Department, Community Schools, the Department of Health and Hospitals, Neighborhood Services and other agencies — to step up law enforcement, and improve education and prevention efforts.

"I'm very impressed with the vast communication network the city has put together to deal with the drug problem," said Georgette Watson, founder of Drop-A-Dime. "In Boston, city officials, the police, neighborhood people, and programs like Boston Against Drugs are all working together to rid neighborhoods of the drug problem. In my visits to other cities, I've come to feel very proud of what we're doing here in Boston. People know that the Mayor and the Police Commissioner are out front on this."

Two of the major elements of the Flynn Administration's war against drugs are increased police presence on the streets to crack down on drug suppliers and buyers, along with efforts to increase drug treatment services to help those who want to overcome drug addiction.

Since 1984, the number of police officers assigned to the Drug Enforcement Unit of the Boston Police Department has increased by 300 percent. In addition, the number of total police officers in the department has risen 15 percent since 1984. The number of drug-related arrests has risen dramatically in the last four years: from January 1, 1988 to October 1, 1988 there were 6,002 arrests, compared with 1984's year-end total of 3,534.

Meanwhile, the Flynn Administration is working to identify the specific needs for additional drug treatment services throughout the city. To do this, the Department of Health and Hospitals Board of Directors has been holding ongoing public hearings to solicit testimony from residents and experts in the drug treatment field on the need for additional services in the city.

"In addition to increasing police crackdowns on drug dealers, we also need to focus attention on treatment for people who want to get off drugs," said Mayor Raymond Flynn. "Drug abuse is a problem that will require many innovative solutions, hard work and strong cooperation between government officials at every level and neighborhood residents."

In Boston, current patient censuses and waiting list counts indicate that there are between 350 and 450 people waiting for drug treatment. The waiting periods range from two to four months. In an effort to eliminate the list of IV-drug users awaiting treatment, Mayor Flynn has secured a commitment from the Dukakis Administration to end all waiting lists.

While the city works to help present day drug users, it has also mounted an extensive educational program to inform Boston's youth of the dangers of drugs.

In a collaborative program between the Boston public and Parochial schools and the Boston Police Department, fifth and sixth grade students are learning how to identify drugs as well as understand their dangers. Under the School Program to Educate and Control Drug Abuse, known as SPECDA, and the Drug Awareness Resistance Education (DARE) program, police officers go into the sixth and fifth grades respectively to educate students to recognize a variety of different drugs and to have a frank discussion with students about the seriousness of drug and alcohol abuse.

The DARE program, which began in January 1988, is a seventeen-week long program. SPECDA, on the other hand, runs year-long, and reaches some 6,300 students annually.

Meanwhile, Community Schools has instituted drug and alcohol prevention curricula for its after-school tutoring program provided for students in the middle school re-entry and alternative high school programs. With state grant money, Community Schools has also trained 200 of its staff on drug awareness and prevention.

During the summer months, Community Schools hosts a wide variety of recreational programs that provide an alternative to drugs for Boston's youth.

Caring For Boston: Boston's Department of Health and Hospitals

Since its beginning, Boston's Department of Health and Hospitals (Boston City Hospital, Community Health Care Division and Long-Term-Care Division) has reached out to identify and provide for the medical needs of its surrounding communities. Presently, there are 26 community health centers in Boston that receive more than 900,000 visits each year. Community health centers provide a basic core of primary health services in adult internal medicine, pediatrics, dental care and a variety of specialty services.

Here is an overview of the areas of services provided by Boston's Department of Health and Hospitals:

ELDERLY HEALTH CARE for the health of Boston's elderly is one of the most successful and innovative areas of health-care delivery in the city.

The **HEALTHY BABY PROGRAM** provides a variety of services to pregnant women at high-risk of delivering a premature baby. The program is designed to bring these women into the health-care system and represents an investment in the future through care for children who are not yet born.

ADOLESCENT CARE, the health of teenagers and young adults has received increased attention from schools, community health centers, hospitals and the Department over the past several years. A great deal of attention has been given to the topics of suicide, accidents, and homicides for the fifteen- to twenty-four-year-old age group, as well as alcohol abuse and teenage pregnancy.

HEALTH CARE FOR THE HOMELESS — A major cooperative effort between Boston shelters, health-care providers and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation has resulted in a new health-care program for homeless people.

In addition, the Department operates a shelter for the homeless, located at Long Island Hospital. These are only some of the programs offered by the Department of Health and Hospitals to reach more and more Boston residents.

continued on p. 4



Police Commissioner Francis M. Roache and Boston Police Officers staffing the new Mattapan/Dorchester Police Station celebrated the holidays with neighborhood residents this December. Singing Christmas Carols with the Commissioner are (from left to right): Don Gillis, Director of the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services; Captain Bobbie Johnson, Area B; Detective Yves Dambreville, Neighborhood Services; Willie Mae Allen, Neighborhood Services; Commissioner Roache; Deputy Superintendent William Celester; Maude Hurd; and guitarist Calvin Clark.

Passage of Neighborhood Stabilization Bill Called Major Housing Victory

Touted as a major housing victory for the neighborhoods of Boston, the City Council on June 29, 1988, approved Mayor Raymond Flynn's Neighborhood Stabilization Bill, putting in place a conversion permit system that allows the city to regulate conversion of affordable rental housing into high-priced condominiums.

"The City Council vote is a very big victory for stability in Boston's neighborhoods," said Mayor Flynn following the Council's 9-4 vote.

The successful passage of the bill caps five years of work by the Flynn Administration to get a permit system in place. The bill will enable the city to preserve the stock of affordable rental housing, as well as encourage affordable homeownership by allowing conversion when a majority of tenants in a building wish to purchase their units.

"Passage of this bill is a great relief to me and other seniors who need the security of knowing their homes will not be taken away from them," said Lenny Feldberg, a tenant of Westbrook Village in West Roxbury.

"With this bill in place, longtime residents, their children and grandchildren will be afforded a greater opportunity to remain in their neighborhoods without the threat of economic displacement," said Mayor Flynn.

"Passage of this bill is a great relief to me and other seniors who need the security of knowing their homes will not be taken away from them." — Lenny Feldberg.

The ordinance requires owners of apartments regulated by the city's Rent Equity Board to seek a permit from the Board to convert their property to condominiums or cooperatives. Exempt from the bill are singles, twos and owner-occupied, three-family homes, as well as apartments converted before May 4, 1988.

"A steady trend of condo conversion, which was spreading beyond the downtown neighborhoods into the traditionally working class neighborhoods such as South Boston, Dorchester, East Boston, Jamaica Plain and Roxbury, threatened the stability of Boston's neighborhoods," said John Riordan, Assistant Director of Neighbor-

hood Planning and Development for the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services and one of the Mayor's leading lobbyists for the bill. "The bill is aimed at stemming the continuing tide of conversions and bringing condo prices in line with what Boston families can afford."

As it is now, according to a recent study by the Boston Redevelopment Authority, Boston housing prices outstrip the average Boston family income. The study shows that the average household earns half of what it needs to purchase a family-sized (two-or-more bedroom) condominium and a third of what it needs to purchase a single-family home. The average price for a family-sized condo is \$189,574, while the average income for Boston residents is \$26,000.

The conversion permit system is a critical piece of the Flynn Administration's overall housing policy, which focuses on production efforts and housing safeguards.

On the production side, the Flynn Administration has been involved in a variety of creative and aggressive housing programs that include making city-owned property available for the production of affordable housing, bringing boarded-up public housing units back on line and building public-private partnerships to create and rehabilitate affordable housing.

For example, the Flynn Administration has in two recent years exceeded its goal for new housing production. A 1987 year-end tally showed that 4,064 units received city approval, exceeding Mayor Flynn's ambitious goal of 4,000 new housing starts. Of these, close to 50 percent are affordable.

In 1986, the city produced 3,715 housing starts, exceeding that year's goal of 3,400. In a letter to Boston residents, Mayor Raymond L. Flynn called 1987 "a banner year for housing production in Boston."

While federal housing funds have been drastically cut since 1981 and housing production has been down in the Greater Boston area, in the Commonwealth, and nationally, Boston has shown an upswing in housing production.

"These accomplishments (the number of new housing starts) show what can be done to build housing even though federal housing funds have been cut to a trickle of what is needed," the Mayor wrote. "What it takes is the kind of team effort that we have been able to build in Boston, a partnership in which city agencies like the Public Facilities Department, the Boston Housing Authority and the Boston Redevelopment Authority; non-profit developers; the Commonwealth of Massachusetts; private developers; and the financial community all work together to build housing at every income level for the people of Boston."

Also, 1987 showed an unprecedented increase in the number of affordable units started in the city. In 1987, 1,817 units af-

fordable to low- and moderate-income families were started in the city, compared to 1,061 in 1986 — a 71.3 percent increase.

In part, this high degree of affordability is due to the city's aggressive program of generating publicly-assisted projects by tapping into existing funding sources, employing surplus, publicly-owned lots and buildings, and carrying through a program to renovate all vacant BHA units by 1991.

Over the past four years, the city's property disposition program has been successful in conveying almost all surplus city-owned buildings for development. Through the present time, city agencies continue to work to convey surplus parcels for development. These conveyances involved comprehensive neighborhood review processes coordinated by the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services.

Commission Fights Barriers Facing Handicapped

The Mayor's Commission for Persons with Disabilities was established by a City Ordinance in 1971. Over the years, the Commission has evolved into a systems advocacy agency, attempting to reduce the systemic barriers facing disabled persons who are trying to participate in city-sponsored or administered programs or who are trying to benefit from a city-operated service.

Two of the Commission's primary functions are to provide information and referral relative to the needs of disabled persons and to coordinate the city's implementation efforts of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, a federal law requiring non-discrimination on the basis of a handicap in all federally funded programs, activities and services.

Peter Myette, Acting Director of the Mayor's Commission for Persons with Disabilities, said recently, "The Commission's purpose is to upgrade the quality of life for all disabled persons in the City of Boston. Any disabled person having difficulty accessing information within City Hall is encouraged to call us for assistance."

Currently, the Commission for Persons with Disabilities is developing a mailing list for future distribution of informational flyers and brochures and its quarterly newsletter. If you wish to receive this material, please contact the Commission's Community Relations Program at: 725-3682.



Lonsdale Street in Dorchester was the scene of a dramatic plane crash more than a year ago that left seven families homeless. Swift action by the Mayor, ONS, the Boston Redevelopment Authority and local businesses turned this tragedy around in less than a year. On March 1, 1988, families joined Mayor Flynn at a ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate moving day for the seven families.

HEALTH AND HOSPITALS

continued from previous page

The Department is committed to continuing to reach out to the community. To this end, Mayor Raymond L. Flynn, the Board of Health and Hospitals, and the Commissioner have established the Office of Community Relations. The Community Relations Program provides that all-important link to the community to work with and assist hospital staff and city residents in assuring access to quality health care for all. A long-time Boston resident, Marilyn E. Rollins, Director of the Office of Community Relations, welcomes calls at 424-5122. The office is located at 725 Massachusetts Avenue in Boston.

In addition, another link to the community

is the Mayor's Health Line, operated out of City Hospital, and providing callers with free information and referrals about health care in Spanish, Haitian, Creole and French, with other languages available.

The Mayor's Health Line staff works with designated liaisons at all of the city's neighborhood health centers and hospitals and they work to arrange reduced fees, payment plans, free care, interpreters and other related services.

The Mayor's Health Line can be reached at 424-5050, Monday through Friday, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and all calls are confidential.



A youth Gospel Choir sings at the opening of new affordable housing units in Dorchester.



The Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services' Constituent Services Division staff meets with Mayor Flynn in his office. From left to right in the front row are: Evelyn Nauyokas, Corinne Long, Sarah McCarthy, Mayor Flynn, Gerry Cuddyer — Assistant Director of Constituent/24-Hour Service. Back row, left to right, are: Robert Jenkins, Leo Boucher, Steve Goodman, Don Gillis — Director of Neighborhood Services — and Frank McDonough.

CONSTITUENT SERVICES

continued from p. 1

During these months, the office, working with the city's Inspectional Services Department, operates a "No-Heat Hotline" which brings prompt response to residents reporting no-heat situations. Both Inspectional Services and the Neighborhood Services Office aggressively monitor enforcement of the heating laws throughout the winter.

Additionally, the Division works cooperatively with the Public Works Department and its snow emergency center, responding to dangerous situations that develop due to blizzards and severe freezes.

"When Mayor Flynn took office in 1984, one of his first acts was the creation of the Constituent Services Office. The Mayor feels very strongly that the city's residents should have a place to express their concerns, ask questions, and make complaints," said Don Gillis, Director of the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services.

In his Inaugural Address, Mayor Flynn reiterated his commitment to answering the concerns of the people of Boston. "I reminded people at City Hall of the basic fact that the government's job is to help people solve problems they can't solve alone: whether it's a family without heat in winter, a retiree with a question about her pension check, or a neighborhood group requesting improvements for their local park," said the Mayor.

In addition to handling thousands of calls concerned with direct city services such as potholes, streetlights, abandoned cars, and rubbish collection, the Division also fields inquiries regarding many non-city events and programs. "Since the 24-Hour Service operated by ONS is the only fully-staffed,

round-the-clock hotline in the Boston area, it has evolved into a general information-and-referral clearinghouse for many people. Although our emphasis will continue to be on the prompt delivery of city services, our staff makes every effort to assist each caller, or to direct them to the appropriate agency to solve the problem," Cuddyer said.

The availability of the Mayor's 24-Hour Service Line is a welcome relief to the Boston Police Department. A 1986 study of calls received by 911 operators showed that 43 percent of calls they received were of a non-emergency nature. "People were actually calling 911 to find out what time the St. Patrick's Day Parade started, or where the best place is to watch the 4th of July fireworks! Such non-emergency calls tying up the 911 lines can make a critical difference in getting prompt response to crisis situations," explained Cuddyer.

To alleviate the problem, the Boston Police Department has launched an aggressive educational campaign in conjunction with the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services to inform the community of alternative numbers to call with non-emergency questions and concerns.

In all its areas of involvement, the staff of the Constituent/24-Hour Services Division is trained to treat each caller with dignity and respect. "I see the primary responsibility of our office to work as a city agency on behalf of the citizens," Cuddyer said. "When a resident feels that there is a problem, we want to be informed so that the situation can be corrected. Only by being aware of the problem are we able to find a solution."



Transportation Commissioner Richard Dimino, Neighborhood Services Assistant Director John Rioridan, Transportation Department planner Susan Bregman and former BRA Assistant Director Ricardo Millet meet with South End residents to discuss transportation replacement alternatives for the elevated Orange Line now being dismantled.

JOBS

continued from p. 1

"It's a prime example of a positive working partnership the Flynn Administration strives to create between government and business — one which benefits Boston residents," said Kristen McCormack, former Director of the Mayor's Office of Jobs and Community Services.

Glen Hill is a Roxbury resident who benefited from this partnership — and from the city's door-to-door outreach effort. On a warm May morning, Glen, who was unemployed at the time, answered his front door and was surprised to find Mayor Flynn standing there. The Mayor said that he, other city officials, and downtown businesspeople were going door-to-door to let Glen and his Roxbury neighbors know about the Boston For Boston program. Still in shock at having the Mayor personally offer him a chance for a good job, Glen decided to attend a Boston for Boston job fair. The result of his fortunate encounter with the Mayor is that Glen is now employed as a plate checker in the Quality Control Department of Winthrop Press in South Boston. Glen Hill is an example of the Flynn Administration's commitment to reaching out and insuring that all neighborhood residents have the opportunity to benefit from Boston's strong economy.

The JobStart offices serve Boston's residents who are unemployed and underemployed, by providing them with access to jobs, skill training and educational programs. JobStart offices are staffed by employment counselors who provide residents with information about GED/high school diploma, financial aid information, resume preparation and job interviewing skills. JobStart also provides direct job placement assistance to Boston residents.

A major goal of the JobStart Program is to place Boston residents in 50 percent of new jobs created in the downtown area resulting from new development and new business. It is estimated that the current and planned development projects will create approximately 30,000 new jobs over the next five years. Of these, 15,000 jobs are targeted for Boston residents as part of the Boston For Boston initiative.

The Office of Jobs and Community Services worked with real estate developers representing 21 of Boston's largest downtown projects to craft the Boston For Boston agreement to ensure that residents directly benefit from new employment opportunities generated downtown. The developers agreed to encourage new tenants in their buildings to give Boston residents the first opportunity at newly created jobs.

"One of the greatest challenges we face is to develop job training and referral programs to help people in Boston's neighborhoods who are not participating in our booming economy," said Mayor Flynn. "The JobStart program is the key part of our plan to make sure that Boston residents do not get left behind in our rapidly changing economy."



Mayor Raymond Flynn speaks with Roxbury residents, Susan Campbell and her mother, Barbara Peart, as part of an outreach campaign for the Boston for Boston job training and placement program. On May 12 and 13, city officials and volunteers knocked on doors in Roxbury and Mission Hill to inform residents about the Boston for Boston program.

In addition, The Boston For Boston program has opened four JobStart offices throughout the city to inform residents of job and training opportunities and to provide counseling and placement assistance.

"One of the greatest challenges we face is to develop job training and referral programs to help people in Boston's neighborhoods who are not participants in our booming economy," said Mayor Flynn. "The JobStart program is the key part of our plan to make sure that Boston residents do not get left behind in our rapidly changing economy."

When the Beacon Companies, a participating member of Boston For Boston, needed 300 workers for the new Boston Harbor Hotel, they worked with the Mayor's Office of Jobs and Community Services to recruit Boston residents for these positions. Following a series of community meetings in Boston's neighborhoods, 50 percent of those hired by the Harbor Hotel were Boston residents.

The JobStart program is helping residents in Boston's neighborhoods find out about job opportunities and other employment related services.

continued on p. 8

Mayor's Liaisons Help Boston's Immigrants Build New Lives

Boston is home to a wide variety of ethnic groups, making it a city of diversity. Every day, more and more immigrants from foreign lands come to Boston with their families, seeking new opportunities, freedom and better lives.

"This continuing influx of people from all over the world is a true strength of our city," observes Mayor Raymond Flynn. "Boston has become, more and more, a city where people of various cultures can meet and grow from exposure to different lifestyles, languages and points of view. From Chinese New Year and the Annual Puerto Rican Festival to the Caribbean Carnival and St. Patrick's Day, Boston has become a truly international city where different cultures live and grow together."

But, just as many people born in the United States look to government for assistance in realizing the full potential of American life, many among those who have moved here recently need guidance on where to go to get decent and affordable housing, secure, good-paying jobs, healthcare and quality educations for their children.

To assist Boston's newest residents in taking those early, crucial steps in their new lives here, Mayor Flynn appointed liaisons to six immigrant communities, representing Boston's most recent newcomers. The liaisons — to Boston's Hispanic, Vietnamese, Cambodian, Chinese, Caribbean and Capeverdean communities — work alongside neighborhood coordinators whom the Mayor has appointed to every neighborhood in Boston through the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services.

Together, neighborhood coordinators and liaisons to various communities work toward the same goals: helping Boston residents lead better lives and participate fully in community affairs.

To a certain extent, the liaisons to Boston's ethnic communities also play another role: that of assisting newly arrived people to continue to preserve their own rich cultures while becoming American citizens.

"Various and diverse cultures living and flourishing together," notes Don Gillis, Director of the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services, "is what America — and Boston — are all about."



Mayor Raymond L. Flynn appointed Adalberto Teixeira as his liaison to Boston's Capeverdean community on November 16. Teixeira will also work with the Dudley Street neighborhood where he has been an active community member.

Adalberto Teixeira — Capeverdean Liaison

In an effort to create a bridge between City Hall and the growing Capeverdean community of Boston, Mayor Raymond L. Flynn recently appointed *Adalberto Teixeira*, a native of Cape Verde, as his *liaison to Boston's Capeverdean community*.

Teixeira is the sixth linguistic minority liaison to be appointed by Mayor Flynn since he came into office in 1983. Other liaisons are from the Hispanic, Haitian, Vietnamese, Cambodian and Chinese communities.

In addition to being the Mayor's Capeverdean liaison, Adalberto will be a neighborhood coordinator for the Dudley Street neighborhood, where he has been an active community member. Most recently, he was the community organizer for the Dudley Street-Neighborhood Initiative, a Roxbury community group with whom the Flynn Administration has worked to turn 30 acres of public and private land into a mixed-use development that will include 500 units of affordable housing. This unprecedented move by the Flynn Administration is aimed at encouraging investment in the Roxbury neighborhood and community participation in the development of much needed affordable housing.

As liaison to the Capeverdean community, Adalberto will work to ensure that newcomers are provided assistance that enables them to lead better lives and participate fully in the positive opportunities of life in this city.

"I know the difficulties that accompany moving to a new country, learning a new language, a new culture," says Adalberto. "But I also know how one can overcome these obstacles and make a better life for oneself. That's what I hope to share with both newcomers and longtime Capeverdean residents of Boston."

Adalberto emigrated to the United States with his family 11 years ago, following 3 years of service in the Portuguese Army as a sergeant. He served in the U.S. Reserves until 1985. Adalberto is presently working toward a bachelor's degree in community planning at the College of Public and Community Services at the University of Massachusetts in Boston.

Adalberto is also producer and co-broadcaster of a weekly Capeverdean radio show in Boston, which airs Saturday, 9:00 to 10:30 a.m. (1600 AM) and keeps local Capeverdeans informed of all news, political, social and religious events around Boston, providing, at the same time, music and entertainment.



Mayor Ray Flynn places great confidence in his liaisons to various ethnic communities. Pictured from left to right are: Yves Dambreville, Liaison to Boston's Caribbean community; Juan Lopez, Hispanic Liaison; Don Gillis, Director; Van Lan Truong, Vietnamese Liaison; Vun Kim Suos, Cambodian Liaison; and, Yon Lee, Chinese Liaison.

Yves Dambreville — Haitian Liaison

For a long time now, members of Boston's Caribbean and Haitian community have known that they have an advocate in the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services: *Yves Dambreville*, the *Caribbean and Haitian liaison for Mayor Flynn*. Yves, who is Haitian, has lived in the United States for two decades.

The streams of visitors to his office and the dozens of telephone calls he receives daily attest to the fact that Yves truly enjoys his job at Neighborhood Services — his job at helping people.

Yves's position as the Caribbean and Haitian liaison often involves assisting on issues that are basic to any new Bostonian — finding safe, affordable housing, learning the ways of a new city, obtaining a good job and getting an education. Yves feels that his 10 years as a Boston Police officer make him able to reach more people. "You can understand," Yves explains, "that the Caribbean people have not had a good experience with government officials in their countries. As a police officer, I think they are quicker to trust me and are not as hesitant to seek advice or assistance."

"The issues I am involved with as a police officer still involve me as neighborhood coordinator," Yves states. For example, one of Yves's ongoing issues in both capacities is the Mattapan/Dorchester Police Station which opened last summer in that neighborhood. Yves was involved in all facets of the police station from the initial design meetings with neighborhood residents to its eventual opening. He used his knowledge of City Hall and the neighborhood to help the neighborhood play an important

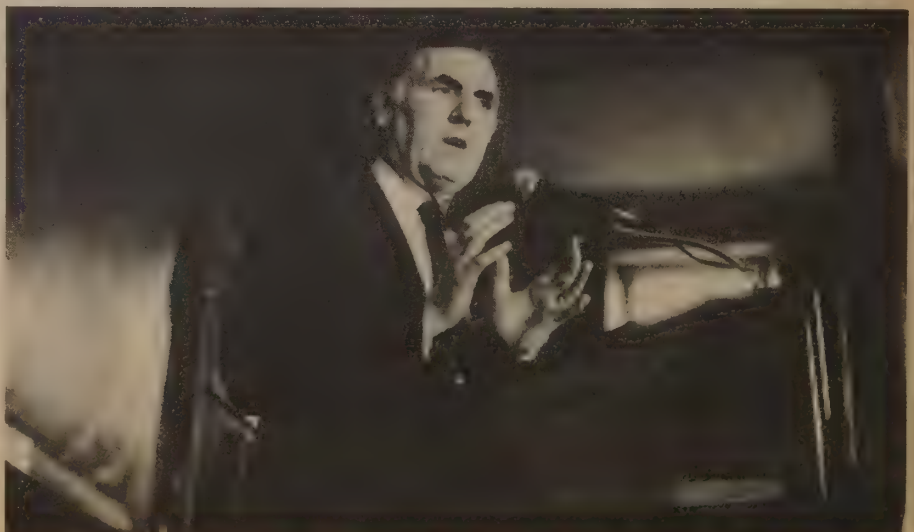
role in carrying out the commitment of Mayor Flynn.

As the neighborhood coordinator for Mattapan at Neighborhood Services, Yves became the Caribbean/Haitian liaison in order to assist the increasingly large Caribbean/Haitian community in Boston.

One of the accomplishments Yves is especially proud of is his involvement in the opening of 11 units of affordable housing in the Franklin Field South area of Dorchester. Yves met with Habitat for Humanity, a non-profit Christian group based in Georgia, when they approached the city after deciding to start an affordable housing project in Boston. With Yves's support, the city sold the land to Habitat for one dollar and donated over \$100,000 in linkage funds to help fund the project. He also gathered volunteer labor to build the units and picked up a hammer more than once himself. Eleven families moved into the townhouses 9 months after the start of the project.

Currently, Yves is using his knowledge of the city and city government to put together a resource guide for all the new Bostonians from the 20 or so Caribbean islands. A guide will also prove helpful for the hundreds of people who work on the annual Caribbean Carnival each year. Yves has helped assist those sponsoring the popular carnival with various issues such as acquiring the proper permits for the festival. "The carnival has become a very important annual event in the city," Yves states.

Yves is a tireless worker who receives visitors regularly at his office in City Hall. "My door is always open," smiles Yves, "all are welcome."



Mayor Raymond L. Flynn addresses a crowd of more than 1,400 immigrants who attended a rally in early May to urge the state not to cut funding to the Gateway City program.

Van Lan Truong — Vietnamese Liaison

Van Lan Truong, the Mayor's Liaison to the Vietnamese community, had been on the job at the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services for only one month when she was called into action to help with what is now referred to as "the Newport Street tragedy." Five deaths occurred during the shooting on Newport Street in Dorchester. Five members of Boston's Vietnamese community were killed by a distant relative.

This was a tragedy that could have ripped the fabric of two communities: that of the Newport Street neighborhood and that of the Vietnamese community in the metropolitan area. "Thanks to Van Lan's crisis intervention and the efforts of many other people, the Dorchester and Vietnamese communities came together to face this senseless tragedy," said Mayor Raymond L. Flynn.

"Strong communities can deal with anything," Van Lan said. "I saw my role as not only helping people deal with their sense of grief and loss, but also assisting people in drawing on the strengths of Boston's Vietnamese community to help them through this difficult period."

Fortunately, Van Lan and liaisons to other new immigrant communities deal with tragedy only rarely. But, Van Lan's daily schedule is more than full. "In a broad sense, I play a twofold role," said Van Lan. "On the one hand, I work to help Vietnamese immigrants participate fully in the rich opportunities of American life. On the other hand, I think the Vietnamese, with their rich culture and traditions, have much to offer Boston."

"Among the Vietnamese people there's a strong sense of community," noted Van Lan. "A community that adds much to the Boston community at large."

Van Lan shares with her fellow Vietnamese the often very hard experiences of leaving their homeland and facing the challenges of living in a new land. In April 1975, when Vietnam was taken over by communist rule, Van Lan escaped by boat with her family. Eventually, she made it to the United States and to Boston.

Now, Van Lan sees her position with Neighborhood Services as a unique opportunity to assist Vietnamese people with gaining jobs, housing, and education for their children. Van Lan also works to help them learn English and acquire the other skills that are necessary to fulfill the dreams that have been realized in Boston by countless immigrants before them.

"I can relate to the problems that many Vietnamese immigrants face in this new land," noted Van Lan. "I faced them myself, and, just as I did, my people can overcome problems and contribute strongly to this society."

It was Van Lan's strength and record of commitment to the Vietnamese community, as well as her many ties and contacts with the metropolitan South East Asian community, that were some of the reasons that Mayor Flynn selected Van Lan to be his liaison to the Vietnamese community. Since then, Van Lan has been a dynamo, helping Vietnamese people gain job and language skills, helping families find housing, and helping Vietnamese people maintain their culture while becoming citizens of the country that has brought them freedom and hope.



Mayor Flynn, Don Gillis and Juan Lopez meet with Huntington Avenue merchants who have been affected by the recent reconstruction project on Huntington Avenue.



Boston Police Detective Jimmy Neel, Yves Dambreville — Mayor Flynn's Liaison to Boston's Haitian-Caribbean community — and City Councillor Bruce Bolling celebrate at the First Christmas Parade.



In May, more than 1,400 immigrants residing in Massachusetts rallied in Faneuil Hall to urge the state not to cut funding for the Gateway Cities Program. The program funds numerous programs to assist immigrants and refugees in Boston and other Massachusetts cities.

Vun Kim Suos — Cambodian Liaison

Vun Kim Suos's story of life in Cambodia is one that reveals the reason behind his absolute commitment to bettering the lives of fellow Cambodians here in Boston as the Mayor's Liaison to the Cambodian community.

During the "holocaust" under the Pol Pot regime — three years during which the government practiced a policy of repression which resulted in the death of one-third of the population — Vun's family was placed in a labor camp.

Because his parents owned a pharmacy, they were suspect, says Vun. One day, while Vun was in the fields looking for food, he heard shots and ran back to the village. From behind some trees, he witnessed soldiers shoot his parents, brothers and sisters. "I cannot put into words how that felt," says Vun.

For the next three months, he journeyed alone over rough terrain each night until he reached Thailand, where he found safety in a refugee camp. Two years later — with his wife and then one child, frightened and unable to speak a word of English — he came to the United States.

That was 12 years ago. Since then, he has learned English. Initially, he said, the only way he knew how to pick up English words was to stand on the street and say "hello" to passers-by. "People thought I was crazy,"

he remembers. But finally one day a neighbor took an interest in him and helped him learn the language.

Before coming to Neighborhood Services, where he works as a bridge between city government and the Cambodian community, Vun was executive director of the Cambodian Community of Massachusetts, Inc., a service agency for Cambodian refugees. Among other projects at the Cambodian Community of Massachusetts, Inc., Vun worked with the city and the Allston-Brighton Community Development Corporation to rehab a row of tenements on Carol Avenue in Allston, including housing for 11 Southeast Asian families.

Of his recent appointment as the Mayor's liaison, Vun says he is eager to work on the issues that are most pressing for the Cambodian community: affordable housing, public safety and discrimination. "My goal is to get people to know city government, how it works for them. I want to organize meetings and give people information about their rights — to let people be aware of all the services that the city provides.

A former film actor and comedian in his native land, Vun often entertains at Cambodian gatherings and events. "I try to make people happy," Vun says, "to send them away with a smile."



Yon Lee (far right), Chinatown Neighborhood Coordinator and Chinese Liaison for Neighborhood Services, looks on as Yin Shuang of Beijing, China, winner of the Sheraton Corporation's International Cook-Off, performs in City Hall lobby.

Yon Lee — Chinese Liaison

In announcing *Yon Lee's* appointment as the new *liaison to the Chinese community* in the summer of 1987, Mayor Raymond L. Flynn told Chinatown business and community leaders, "As we continue our cooperative efforts with the Chinatown community, the responsibility will be on Yon's shoulders to make sure that I know what Boston's Chinese community is thinking."

Like other liaisons to various minority communities within the city, a prime focus for Yon involves assisting Boston's Chinese community in participating fully in the many opportunities that living in Boston offers. Like other staff members at the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services, Yon works hard to give his constituents access to those opportunities.

Yon also works to keep Chinese culture alive and well in Boston's Chinese community — efforts which benefit the entire city. For example, Yon worked with Boston's Ritz Carlton Hotel to coordinate the recent International Culinary Festival. This festival ran for twelve consecutive Wednesdays and brought a chef from a different country each week to City Hall lobby to prepare his or her country's specialty. Yon also takes an active role in other cultural events such as the Chinese New Year's Festival each year, Dragon Boat Festival and the August Moon Festival.

Yon spends a great deal of his time dealing with housing, a major concern in densely populated Chinatown. To address this serious situation, Yon has been working with Boston Redevelopment Authority planners and the Chinatown/South Cove Neighborhood Council to draw up a Master Plan for Chinatown which will help that community plan its development and housing needs into the next century.

Yon is also working with the Boston Redevelopment Authority as a member of the

Midtown Cultural District Task Force. If this Midtown Cultural Development Plan is approved by the BRA Board of Directors and the Boston City Council, much of Boston's "Combat Zone" will be replaced by family and culturally oriented businesses and much-needed housing.

Yon came to the United States from the People's Republic of China at the age of nine after spending two years in Hong Kong trying to get through the red tape and paperwork necessary to get out of China.

Yon continues to work closely with Hong Kong officials as the chairman of the Hong Kong Association of Boston. As chair, Yon is working with government officials and business leaders in both the United States and Hong Kong to strengthen the two country's economic relationship.

Yon's family settled in Boston where he attended grade school, high school and college. Deeply interested in bringing Chinese culture to Americans and in keeping it alive for Chinese immigrants, he set up a Chinese Cultural Center in 1973 and continues to play a central role.

Recently, Yon's tasks have included working with Chinatown residents and merchants to implement a year-round, street-sweeping program. In addition, Yon is working on the issue of the Central Artery depression and its effect on Chinatown.

Juan Lopez — Hispanic Liaison

Over the last decade, the Hispanic community has grown in number as well as in strength — economically, politically and culturally.

Under Mayor Raymond L. Flynn's Administration more and more Hispanics have risen to leadership roles in the city government, holding positions where they can help newcomers to America and assist Hispanic residents fully realize the rich potential of life in Boston. Juan Lopez is one of those leaders.

Juan Lopez, newly appointed the Mayor's liaison to the Hispanic community, first came to the Flynn Administration in 1985 as a hearing officer for the city's Rent Equity Board. There, he conducted hearings on rents, evictions, condominium conversions and vacancy decontrol cases, and presented case analysis and recommendations to the Rent Equity Board. This experience has provided Juan with a vast knowledge of housing law, subsidy programs and tenant and property owners' rights. Before joining the Administration, Juan worked for the International Institute of Boston, a multiservice agency that helps refugees resettling in the Greater Boston area.

Juan and his family moved to the United States in 1968, settling in Jamaica Plain in 1970. In 1977, Juan graduated from Jamaica Plain High School, where he was student

council president. Juan, who worked in the Jamaica Plain/Mission Hill Little City Hall, has been an active member of that neighborhood, working on such issues as housing, health and public safety.

As Mayor Flynn's liaison to the Hispanic community, he works with city departments, agencies and individuals on issues that confront the Hispanic community. "Being the Hispanic liaison," Juan said recently, "I have the ability to work with members of my community all over the city. I work to empower them with the knowledge and skills they need to make a good life for themselves in Boston."

In general, Juan concentrates on the basics: housing, job skills and education. He also helps coordinate the many Hispanic cultural events, festivals and celebrations, which form the backbone of Hispanic culture and add so much to the rich diversity of Boston. The Puerto Rican festival, for example, has been held in Boston for the past twenty years. Juan will help coordinate this event whose popularity continues to grow.

Juan's job is not easy, but he remembers the confusion he sometimes felt as a new arrival. "Anything I can do to help people have even a little easier time than I did makes my efforts worth it," Juan said.

Juan can be reached at the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services at 725-3485.

JOBS

continued from p. 5

If you would like more information about the JobStart program please call or visit a JobStart Office and watch for the Mobile JobStart, which will be bringing the JobStart program to your neighborhood.

Boston, JobStart
Mayor's Office of Jobs
and Community Services
43 Hawkins Street
Boston
723-1400, ex: 123

Charlestown JobStart
One Thompson Square
Charlestown
242-3352

Roxbury JobStart
2406 Washington Street
(BRA Building)
Dudley Square
Roxbury
445-2078

South Boston JobStart
535 E. Broadway
(Behind the Courthouse)
South Boston
269-5820

Fields Corner JobStart
1486 Dorchester Avenue
Dorchester
288-6618



Two Hyde Square residents help paint a mural in Mozart Playground in Jamaica Plain.

Working Together To Build Housing In Roxbury

A unique, first-in-the-country agreement between the City of Boston and a Roxbury neighborhood group could result in as many as 500 new units of affordable housing for the Dudley Street neighborhood on 30 acres of currently vacant land.

Under the innovative agreement, the 800 member Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative will work with the city to develop a 30-acre "patchwork" of vacant, city-owned and privately held land. As part of the development partnership, the neighborhood group will be empowered to take control of currently unused vacant parcels for positive development. The group will pay property owners fair market value for the parcels.

"What we're doing is sending a very clear and powerful message all across the country," Mayor Raymond L. Flynn said at an October 1 rally celebrating the partnership. "That message is that city government ought to be the neighborhoods' best friend."

The agreement arose out of two-year-long discussions between the neighborhood group and the Public Facilities Department regarding that Department's 747 Program — a city initiative to work with Boston neighborhood's to develop much-needed affordable housing on all buildable, city-owned lots by the end of 1991.

"What the city aims to do is not only work to develop as much high-quality affordable housing as is practical in Boston, but also to empower community-based development groups to play a role in the crucial task of creating housing for Boston residents," noted Public Facilities Commissioner Lisa Chapnick.

"If we wait for private developers to build housing, they might not build it for us. We'll be pushed out," said Che Madyun, President of the Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative. "If we do it ourselves, we'll gain the stability other neighborhoods have. Mayor Flynn believed in us and because of him we have the tools we need to rebuild our neighborhood."

Using vacant lots for the development of affordable housing has been a priority within the Flynn Administration, as has been the cleaning up of vacant lots to both beautify the neighborhoods and protect the public from safety hazards. Last year alone, in Roxbury and immediately adjoining neighborhoods, the city cleaned close to 1,000 vacant lots at a cost of more than \$750,000.

"Cleaning the lots and making them available for the development of sorely needed affordable housing is part of the Flynn Administration's overall effort to work with neighborhoods and provide the necessary services to help make them better places to live," said Don Gillis, Director of the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services.

On Saturday, October 1, more than 100 Roxbury residents stood with Mayor Flynn on a vacant Dudley Street lot to mark the beginning of the partnership which will literally transform a part of Roxbury.

The message on that morning was clear: by working together, Boston neighborhoods and the city can build better homes and better lives for residents in every community in Boston.



This Dorchester family's home at 56 Wales Street is the first property rehabilitated under the Abandoned Housing Bank program administered by the city's Public Facilities Department.

747 Program to Turn Vacant Lots Into Housing

The figures are impressive: over the past five years — from 1984 through 1988 — over 14,000 units of housing have been started in Boston, many with the assistance of city leaders, loans and linkage funds. But, even this high degree of success in generating new housing starts, the City of Boston plans to continue to aggressively pursue its goal of generating high-quality affordable housing for Boston residents.

In November, 1987, Mayor Raymond Flynn unveiled an ambitious project which aims to turn all of the city's vacant, buildable lots (over 3,500 square feet) into attractive, high-quality and affordable housing. There are 747 such lots throughout Boston.

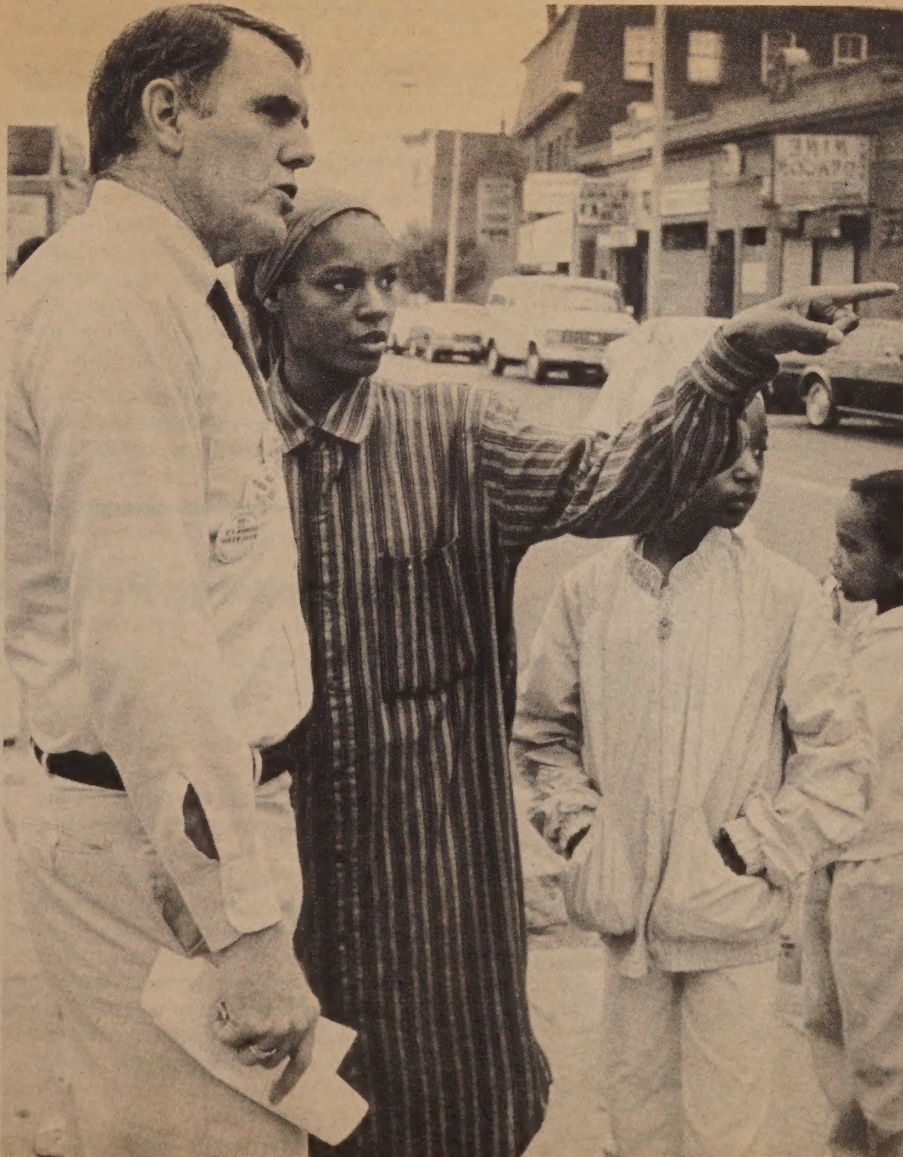
On January 14, 1988 the Public Facilities Department completed its selection process for the first of the vacant lots to be offered as part of the program. Six packages of 3-to-5 lots each, located in Dorchester and Mattapan, were awarded to four local development teams. Totaled together, the development projects advanced by the four will generate 54 new units of affordable housing.

This was just the start. Throughout 1988, the city continued to work to select developers to build affordable housing on city-owned vacant lots.

"Project 747 will be the source of the future affordable housing for Boston's residents," said Lisa G. Chapnick, Director of the Public Facilities Department. "We encourage residents of Boston neighborhoods, as well as architects and developers, to participate in the 747 program."

As with almost all city-generated housing development within Boston, the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services plays a central role in working with neighborhood residents to plan housing that reflects the desires and opinions of both residents from the surrounding community as well as those who live in the new units.

"One of the most important responsibilities our neighborhood coordinators have is working with residents to help them participate in planning for development — whether city-generated or private — within their neighborhoods," said John Riordan, Assistant Director for Planning and Development at the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services. "Every night of the week, city staff are working with neighborhood residents and Neighborhood Services staff to review proposals and otherwise shape the course of development and land use in our neighborhoods."



Mayor Flynn talks with Che Madyun of the Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative during a tour of Roxbury.

City, BHA Announce Fair Housing Agreement with HUD

After several months of negotiations, the City of Boston recently announced an agreement with the Federal Government to establish new policies guaranteeing fair and equal access to public housing in Boston.

On June 16, 1988 Mayor Raymond L. Flynn and Boston Housing Authority Administrator Doris Bunte announced a "voluntary compliance agreement" with the Federal Housing and Urban Development Department (HUD).

In a letter announcing the agreement, Mayor Flynn and Administrator Bunte stressed that, "Unlike the past, we are striving to implement a voluntary compliance agreement rather than a court-ordered solution. We seek to establish a tenant selection and assignment system which respects the law and is fair to everyone, while offering those remedies which are required by the federal government."

In conjunction with the announcement of the agreement, city officials conducted numerous meetings with tenant groups, neighborhood residents, religious leaders and the business community. Although the negotiations, and the discussion and media coverage they attracted may have caused concern among public housing residents and applicants, the agreement features the following safeguards:

- no public housing tenant will be required to leave an apartment for the purpose of desegregation;
- current applicants for public housing will not lose their chronological place in line;
- emergency applicants will continue to have first priority for public housing.

As part of the agreement, the City of Boston won the right to demonstrate a so-called

"alternate feed" policy, where tenants can choose between being placed on a single, city-wide waiting list for the first available unit, or on a more local list for a unit in the development of their choice. City officials stressed that Boston is one of the few cities in the country which tries to give public housing applicants some say over where they will live.

Mayor Flynn and Director Bunte strongly endorsed the "alternate feed" policy in their letter, saying, "We believe that the alternate feed proposal respects the desire tenant applicants of all races have to exercise some control over the future for themselves and their families. We also believe that this proposal is in the long-term health of public housing in Boston, and that it contributes to the strength and stability of our neighborhoods, without compromising fair housing goals."

The compliance agreement includes policies designed to remedy past practices initiated prior to the present city administration. The federal government found that during the course of its receivership and since, the Boston Housing Authority failed to implement an open housing preference priority that was written into the HUD-

continued on p. 11

Mayor Raymond L. Flynn Goes on Radio To Discuss The History of Integrating Boston's Public Housing

The following is the text of Mayor Raymond L. Flynn's talk on the history of Boston's public housing that led to the city's voluntary compliance agreement with the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development delivered in June to listeners of Peter Meade's WBZ radio show.

Let me take a few minutes to talk about an important issue that I think needs to be put into historical perspective. As you know, two black families recently moved into the Mary Ellen McCormack housing development in South Boston. These families weren't looking to make history, they were only looking for a home. The move has been peaceful, thanks to the people of goodwill in South Boston and all across the city.

I suppose a lot of people who are new to the Boston area might wonder what all the fuss is about. You know, social policy isn't created in a vacuum; it's created in the social and political atmosphere of the times. Today's integration efforts in South Boston have to be understood in the context of the history of and decisions made during the past fourteen years in this city.

Boston is a far different city than it was fourteen years ago. That was a time of great disarray for public housing in Boston — there was a lack of steady leadership in the agency and such gross mismanagement that the BHA couldn't meet even minimal standards of sanitary housing and ended up under Court Receivership. Race relations were at an all time low in the city, fueled by the busing dispute.

If we are going to look at where we are today, we need to understand the conditions under which decisions were made in the past that got us to where we are now. During those turbulent years, the courts, the state and federal governments, and a former city administration were all involved with the shaping of the BHA's policies, that have led us to our present situation.

I think we have to go all the way back to 1975 when it all started. That's when tenants filed a class action suit called the *Perez* case. Basically, this was an attempt to use the courts to get the BHA to address the violations of the State Sanitary Code and to make public housing developments safe and healthy places in which to live.

While Judge Paul Garrity was deciding the case, he ordered the BHA to develop a plan for desegregating BHA housing. And so in 1977 — eleven years ago — he approved a consent decree that called for integrating the BHA developments and creating a new tenant assignment and selection plan.

Now the BHA didn't act alone in implementing this new assignment plan. They sought and obtained the approval of the

federal government's Department of Housing and Urban Development (which we know as HUD) and the state's Department of Community Affairs (which is now the Executive Office of Communities and Development, EOCD). And in 1978, with everyone's agreement, they began to implement this new plan.

About this same time, a group of South Boston residents, led by Jim Kelly, now City Councillor Jim Kelly, challenged those integration plans in the *Schmidt* case. But the plans were upheld by Judge Rya Zobel in 1981. As you can see, Councillor Kelly has been down this road before, and he hit a dead end. He was rejected formally by the courts. His actions then and now are misleading the people of South Boston.

But things still didn't get better in the BHA, and so in 1979, because of neglect and mismanagement, the court placed the agency under Court Receivership. Basically, they took it over because it wasn't working for anyone. It was dirty, run down, and unsafe. From this point on, the BHA was forced to do everything it could to upgrade the disgraceful physical conditions in BHA housing.

Harry Spence was appointed as receiver. He knew that he had to clean up the BHA, but he also saw his obligation to carry out the integration plans ordered by the court. At that time, he asked the city administration for help. Racial tensions were still running high. He needed police resources assigned so that he could ensure public safety while integrating the developments. He was rejected. Under these circumstances, a

continued on p. 11

Fair Housing Progress

Since arriving at a voluntary agreement with the federal government in June 1988, the City of Boston has moved resolutely and aggressively to implement a series of steps which will both rectify past inequities and guarantee present and future fair and equal access to public housing in Boston.

On January 9, 1989, the city completed the first phase of its comprehensive fair housing program. During the preceding three months, the city took extensive and significant actions to identify persons whose right to housing in the past may have been limited through direct or inadvertent discouragement to placement in specific housing developments.

Steps to identify "disadvantaged" applicants for Boston Housing Authority housing included a full scale advertising and outreach campaign through the major and

local media, mailings of informational fliers in several different languages and over sixty neighborhood briefings. Additionally, the BHA sent over 1,000 letters to past applicants who might have been disadvantaged.

"Consistently, the city exceeded the required steps set forth in agreements with the federal government and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People," said Larry Dwyer, executive assistant to BHA Administrator Doris Bunte.

Boston's voluntary compliance agreement with the federal government is the first such plan arrived at between a city and the federal government on this kind of public housing issue.

The city will work to ensure that situations in which applicants were unfairly treated will be rectified and that all necessary measures are adapted so that access to public housing in Boston is fair for all.



Mayor Flynn maneuvers to take a shot at the Sports in Pride Day basketball game last summer at the Washington-Beech Housing Development in Roslindale. The Washington-Beech Team took on the Police Athletic League.

Neighborhood Cleanups Sweeping Across Boston

It is a scene that happens more and more each year during the spring, summer and autumn in Boston: community residents and city workers getting together to clean up neighborhood parks, lots, sidewalks, alleyways and streets.

And, while some Boston neighborhoods already have time-honored traditions of annual cleanups, the city's "Pickin' Up the Neighborhood" Program — now moving into its fifth season — is making cleanups a spring priority in more and more Boston neighborhoods.

"The cleanups are quickly becoming important annual events in so many Boston neighborhoods," notes Neighborhood Services staff person Shirley Coyne, who coordinates the "Pickin' Up the Neighborhood" Program. "In 1984, when we started the program, there were 26 cleanups. In the last two years there have been 240 cleanups."

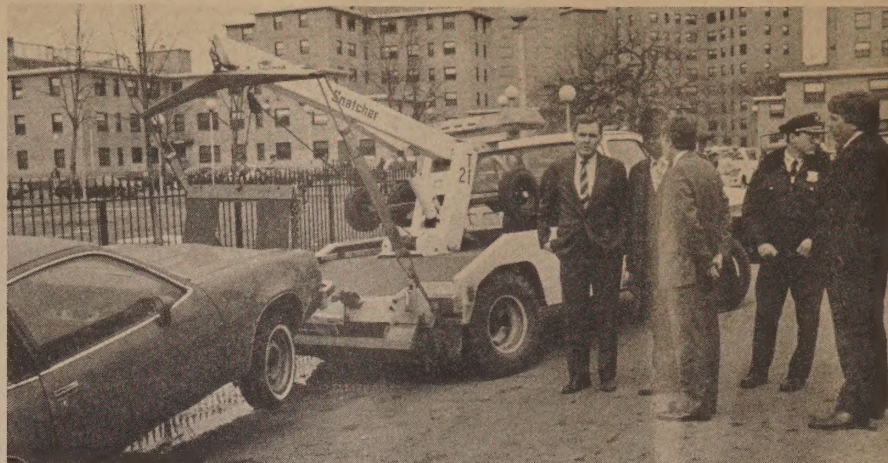
A working partnership between neighborhood residents and the city points to the tremendous growth of the popular program. During the 1987 and 1988 cleanup sessions, combined, more than 12,000 volunteers participated in the cleanups, and more than 2,700 tons of debris were hauled away.

In Jamaica Plain on April 16, 1988, a record was broken when over 164 tons of trash, litter and debris were removed from streets and vacant lots. Detlev Koepke who organized the cleanup for the Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Council reported that over 200 hard-working residents participated. "People were lining up as early as 8:45 a.m. to pick up their tools and start cleaning," Koepke said. "Everyone was enthusiastic and the neighborhood looks great!"

The "Pickin' Up the Neighborhood" Program represents one component of the Office of Neighborhood Services' efforts to work in partnership with neighborhood groups, merchants, and Boston's business community to significantly improve the quality of life across the city. This past year, the Prudential Property Company continued to underwrite the costs of four downtown cleanups and assist the city.

Through the program, neighborhood residents volunteer their time on weekend mornings. The city — through the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services and the Public Works Department — assists residents in their efforts by supplying tools, providing volunteers with t-shirts, hats and gloves, and carting away the tons of debris collected. Other departments, such as Parks and Recreation and Public Works, also work with the volunteers depending on the scope of the cleanup.

Catherine Smith, a Dorchester resident and Codman Square Neighborhood Council member, worked with several neighborhood groups all over Dorchester to organize a cleanup in that neighborhood. "Our cleanup was fantastic," Smith reported. "We had the full participation of both the city and the neighborhood residents who helped out. Neighborhood Services did a great job coordinating everything. We worked from early morning until late evening and the neighborhood really shows the results."



During fiscal year 1988, roughly 10,000 abandoned cars were removed from Boston streets. In FY '87, the City towed 5,600 cars. Mayor Flynn, here pictured with Police Commissioner Francis "Mickey" Roache and Neighborhood Services Director Don Gillis, has stepped up efforts to penalize individuals who abandon their cars on the streets.



At the start of 1987, two vacant lots on Lucerne and Balsam Streets in Mattapan were covered with weeds, refuse, abandoned cars and appliances. Today, these lots are used as gardens and rot lots. The transformation is due to the hard work by neighborhood residents, City Hall, and Boston Urban Gardeners — a greenspace advocacy group.



A Hyde Park resident asks a question at a meeting regarding rezoning Hyde Park Avenue.



Jamaica Plain residents discuss plans for implementing a Resident Parking Program. The Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services has worked with the Boston Transportation Department to institute this program in neighborhoods throughout Boston.

MAYOR DISCUSSES FAIR HOUSING

continued from p. 10

frustrated Harry Spence notified HUD, EOOD, the NAACP and the court, in 1983, that he was unable to obtain the support he needed, and that he could not integrate public housing without that support.

In 1984, right after I was first elected, I met with Spence and told him that he had the full support of my administration to go ahead with the integration efforts. Working with him, we went ahead with the integration of BHA housing in Charlestown. And it was successful, because everyone in the community, including the media by the way, cooperated. I think the members of the Charlestown community deserve great praise for their work to make this succeed.

By the way, later on, when Judge Garrity lifted the receivership and returned control of the BHA to me, his orders noted the successful integration of public housing in Hyde Park, East Boston, as well as Charlestown.

In 1985, I appointed Doris Bunte as administrator of the BHA. Now, Doris has been known for a long time as a civil rights activist and an advocate for public housing tenants. Remember she once lived in public housing and raised her family there.

Mrs. Bunte recognized that she had a lot more work to do to finish cleaning up BHA housing conditions. She made that her priority. She reasoned, quite correctly I believe, that she needed to make apartments clean, and safe, and livable before she could really make progress on the integration front.

And she has made remarkable progress.

Since she's been there, more than 90 percent of the apartments now meet the state sanitary code compared to 23 percent just a few years ago. The boards of vacant apartments are coming down, so that by 1991 the BHA will achieve full occupancy. Repairs which once took weeks to be addressed now take a few days or a few hours.

Then in August of 1987, all of a sudden, out of the clear blue, HUD changed the rules. Now remember, HUD had given both legal and political support to the BHA integration plan a decade ago. But now, they simply rejected these plans.

In order to comply with HUD's new policies, and quite frankly to avoid the intervention of the federal court, the BHA worked with the agency to develop the Voluntary Compliance Agreement which was recently finalized, and under which the BHA will operate for the months to come. We've had enough of receivership in Boston, and we must do everything we can to retain control of our own futures.

So you can see there is quite a history behind our present situation with the BHA. The BHA's decisions and policies arose out of their historical context, were fair within that context, and were agreed to by most policy makers of the time.

But, today's conditions demand new priorities. We no longer live in that chaotic environment of the 1970s when race was an inflammable issue — when living conditions in the BHA were so miserable that extraordinary efforts were needed to fix them up — when necessary public safety resources

were not available — and when the city's administration was not fully supportive of the integration efforts.

I think that it's important to point out that the achievements we can make now in integrating public housing would not be possible without the improved living conditions in the developments. It's up to all of us now to work together to ensure that access to public housing in Boston is done in a fair and equitable manner, that gives everyone as much choice as possible in deciding where they want to live.

BHA

continued from p. 10

approved tenant selection plan in 1977. The first of those policies to be implemented will be remedial placement for tenants and applicants who may have been disadvantaged by past BHA decisions and practices.

In making the announcement, city officials stressed the progress made in improving conditions for public housing tenants in recent years. They pointed out that 90 percent of public housing units were now in code compliance, up from only 23 percent a few years ago, and that their goal was for full occupancy of all public housing units by the year 1991.

In the close of their letter, Mayor Flynn and Director Bunte asked: "Let us work together to sustain the healing process our city has experienced over the past few years. We owe this to our families, to our community, and to ourselves."

Neighborhood Councils Move Into Fourth Year

More than four years ago Mayor Raymond L. Flynn appointed Neighborhood Councils in seven Boston neighborhoods.

Within recent months, all seven councils have carried out reselection processes to seat new members for the Councils' second terms. Most recently the North End/Waterfront Neighborhood Council and the Chinatown/South Cove Neighborhood Council held elections which attracted a record number of voters; in the North End 1,001 residents cast their votes during a four-hour period, while in Chinatown more than 2,300 people came out to vote. The Charlestown Neighborhood Council recently held its second election, which drew over 1,200 neighborhood residents to the polls.

"The level of interest and participation in neighborhood councils is extraordinary," said Don Gillis, Director of the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services, which along with other city agencies and departments, offers staff support to the councils. "It speaks to the success of the councils."

The seven councils are in West Roxbury, Codman Square, Jamaica Plain, Chinatown/South Cove, the North End/Waterfront, Roxbury and Charlestown.

Though each of the Neighborhood Councils adopted different election processes, the strength of community interest in the elections shows the level of respect and interest the Councils have generated in their communities. Nearly 6,500 residents have participated in the seven Neighborhood Council elections to date.

"People want to participate because Neighborhood Councils give residents a real 'say' in decisions that affect the future of their neighborhood," said Ken Brothers, Roxbury Neighborhood Council member. "For example, the Roxbury Neighborhood Council has involved a great many neighborhood residents in the rezoning of Roxbury — and this new zoning will, to a large degree, determine the future of our neighborhood."

"I think we have been very successful," said Catherine Cullen, former chairperson of the West Roxbury Council. "We have tackled a number of very difficult issues — some large-scale development projects and traffic and parking problems."

"I feel that the Council is doing a tremen-

dous job," North End Neighborhood Council member Teresa Palermo noted. "We have stopped a number of projects that haven't been suitable for the neighborhood and we get great response from the neighborhood saying we have done a good job."

As advisory panels, the Councils were established to increase the opportunity for neighborhood residents to shape decisions affecting their community. Each Council was developed with the goal of including various constituencies, thereby representing the diversity of the neighborhoods.

According to Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Council Secretary Margaret Noce, this representation of divergent voices within the community has been fruitful in Jamaica Plain.

"The Council," Noce asserted, "offers a regular public forum for residents to exchange their views — a continuous dialogue over a wide range of issues. I think it's very healthy and helpful, especially in Jamaica Plain, where there are a lot of issues."

One of the largest projects various Neighborhood Councils will face is the rezoning of their neighborhoods, a process not done in Boston since 1964. Mayor Flynn has committed the resources of Neighborhood Services and the Boston Redevelopment Authority to help Boston neighborhoods create development plans and controls through their councils or through Planning and Zoning Advisory Committees (PZACs).

dents to take a close look at development proposals while mapping out new zoning requirements for their community together with BRA planners and staff of Neighborhood Services.

Other neighborhoods have also entered the IPOD process. They include the East Boston, Allston-Brighton, and Downtown, as well as Dorchester Avenue. The Port Norfolk section of Dorchester and the Boylston Street area already have been rezoned through the IPOD process, while other neighborhoods, such as, West Roxbury, Charlestown, South Boston, Fort Point Channel and Harborpark neighborhoods are currently in the planning stages. Allston-Brighton, East Boston, Dorchester,

"People want to participate because Neighborhood Councils give residents a real 'say' in decisions that affect the future of their neighborhood," said Ken Brothers, Roxbury Neighborhood Council member.

The Roxbury Neighborhood Council was the first council to tackle the rezoning of its neighborhood, which it viewed as a neighborhood priority. The neighborhood won approval for a set of interim controls in a two-year amendment to the Zoning Code that allows that community to plan for its future while closely scrutinizing development proposals before them.

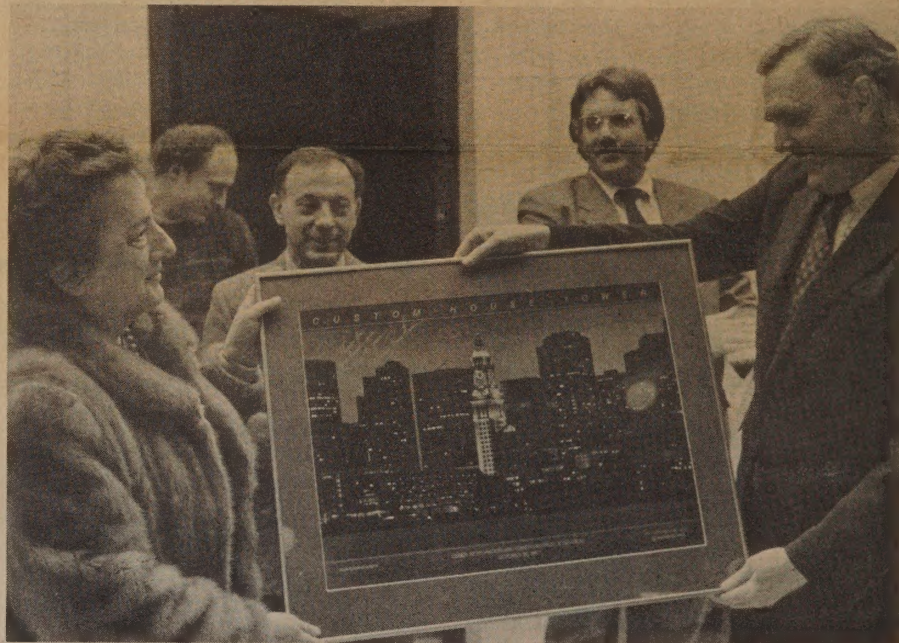
The amendment, passed in June 1987 by the Boston Zoning Commission, makes Roxbury an Interim Planning Overlay District (IPOD). An IPOD has been described as a protective shield which allows resi-

the Fenway and Mission Hill are currently served by Planning and Zoning Advisory Committees appointed by Mayor Flynn. PZACs coordinate neighborhood involvement in this important undertaking.

"It's important to get development pressures off the community's back to give us a breathing space so we can determine what we want to do with our zoning," noted Bernard Doherty, chair of the Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Councils Zoning Committee. The months of work by the committee were successful. On January 26, 1989, the BRA Board voted to put an IPOD amendment in place in Jamaica Plain.



Listening to people is the cornerstone of the Flynn Administration.



Mayor Flynn presents North End Neighborhood Council chairwoman Emilie Pugliano a photograph of the Custom Tower at night during a Holiday Reception with neighborhood residents and the Mayor at the Custom House.



Carpenters work to replace a fence at the L Street bathhouse in South Boston as part of a \$986 million capital improvement plan to upgrade and maintain municipal property, including parks, schools, libraries and police and fire stations.